

# Libraries

(A Continuation of Public Libraries)

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## Factors of Economy in Branch Library Building and Maintenance<sup>1</sup>

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Briefly stated, the modern movement for public library buildings in cities began about 1895, due to the activities of Mr Andrew Carnegie, and later, to the Carnegie Corporation which he established in 1911. These activities continued until the entrance of the United States into the World War in 1917, at which time the Corporation provided for the building of camp libraries in the 32 large army cantonments in this country. During that period there had been erected in the United States and Canada by Mr Carnegie and the Corporation, 1775 library buildings, at a cost of \$43,000,000.

One reason for the discontinuance of Carnegie library gifts after 1917 was the failure of a considerable number of communities to keep their original agreement, a most sensible and necessary one, which had called for an annual tax appropriation of at least 10 per cent of the cost of the building. Certain states were particularly open to censure on this point. Ohio in 1916 had 27 libraries on the "black list." This circumstance no doubt influenced the decision to cease giving, and the statement by the trustees, in 1922, that

"the Corporation has discontinued the granting of public libraries in the belief that so many of these have been provided, and so many communities have received the impulse for library facilities, that the purpose which Mr Carnegie had in view has been in large measure accomplished. It is their hope that the library movement has now gained such headway that the continuation of the work by other communities will be effected without aid from the Corporation."

### Change in policy of Carnegie Corporation

This change in the policy of the Carnegie Corporation, doubtless sound from every point of view, was a cause of bitter disappointment to a number of communities, some of which had been making definite plans to secure Carnegie money. Among these was Youngstown, which in 1916 had promised thru its city council to provide the usual support, if the Corporation would give four branch buildings.

All libraries were by this statement of the Corporation thrown upon their own resources to provide library buildings. During the five years which have passed, the library profession and municipal officers have come to acknowledge that this policy is a perfectly just one, and that it devolves upon the community to provide its own library buildings.

<sup>1</sup> The following statement was prepared in November, 1925, for the trustees of the Public library, Youngstown, Ohio, in connection with a proposed program for sub-branch buildings. Its publication now may bring out discussion and further studies on a subject for which there is little printed information. J. L. W.

How shall these buildings be financed? Logically in the same way that schools and other public buildings are, generally by bond issues, to spread the debt over a period of years. Bond issues for municipal improvements have been carried to excess in many cities. A safer and more thrifty policy has been found successful in several instances: the annual tax levies of the city itself have been increased to include advance payments on, for example, school buildings. After building up this fund for three or four years, and benefiting by the accrued interest, the last of the annual payments is provided during the actual construction, so that when the building is completed the money has all been raised and the bills paid. In some cities library appropriations have been increased with the definite plan of accumulating each year a building fund from which, at intervals, the cost of new branches may be met. In other cities, buildings are being provided by contributions from the public. While justified under certain circumstances, this throws an unjust burden on the generous and more intelligent members of the community, who believe in the civic value of books. To that extent it is undemocratic, for library buildings and service should properly be supplied by and for the entire population.

#### **Present problems of financing buildings**

The pressure on taxpayers to support a widening variety of public activities, including educational extensions, has finally met with a resistance that demands careful analysis by public officials and taxpayers alike. Among the factors entering into the problem are: The worth of each activity; its pressing necessity; the type of ability among the officials who direct the work and expenditures; the national standards of economy and efficiency which exist, whereby to measure the local situation.

Factors of another type, harder to analyze and control, have to do with public opinion. Unless taxation caused by past wars and preparedness is re-

duced, the percentage of taxation to total property values must, in a developing community, show a slow but steady increase. This is due to the wise desire of the people to handle more and more of their everyday privileges such as education, sanitation, police and fire protection, on a community basis, rather than pay separately as individuals or families. People who demand more public service can not, when faced with the facts, expect to get this service without paying.

The people, however, may be pardoned for challenging expenditures, no matter how good the purpose nor how gladly they have voted funds. The wastes of public funds have been largely responsible for the challenge.

Education and recreation thru books and libraries is demanded on an increasing scale. That communities do actively desire it and are willing to pay is quite evident nationally. It is strikingly shown in the many cases where by popular vote, taxes for operating and bond issues for building projects have been granted by large votes.

#### **Necessity to curb costs of both building and maintenance**

The financial problems for library buildings under these new conditions, where tax money and bond issues are used, will have more careful consideration than they did when building funds were donated by a far-away corporation. While libraries have for many years made a careful study of their operating costs, they have only recently begun to study these with relation to building costs in the case of branches of city library systems. Several cities have now developed interesting branch buildings of an inexpensive nature which are handling a large service.

The monumental type of school and library building, whether large or small, has given way since 1900 to a more sensible and straightforward type in which first attention is given to planning for service, after which attractive but less ornate exteriors have

been designed. Domes, spacious corridors and long stairway approaches have gone, and in the reaction, some library buildings since the war have so clearly tended toward the "factory" type as to have earned the name of "reading factories." Saw-tooth roofs, store fronts and overhead living-quarters characterize some library buildings which have gone to the extreme in the search for economy.

Some of these latter features may be permitted in rented quarters, but it is doubtful if the taxpayers themselves, who are the patrons of these buildings, desire any such housing for their libraries—buildings which are to greet their eyes for many years as the physical sign of the community's belief in the inspiring power of books. A more suitable solution may result from a careful study of each problem with a view to a building which, while attractive and appropriate, will give back in service every cent which goes into it.

#### **Main factors in costs**

When a library costing \$125,000 handles a circulation of 100,000, and another costing \$50,000 handles 50,000 circulation, while a third costing \$10,000 handles 100,000 circulation, it is apparent that certain factors have been overlooked in the planning, as well as in the subsequent operating. It is such wastes which must from this time on be more carefully guarded against. These wastes are not apparent until one studies the various elements which will affect future operating costs. These may be briefly summarized as follows:

##### **a) Location for greatest service**

Outside of extravagance in the building itself, the greatest factor of waste in library planning is the inexcusable failure to realize that location may mean as much as the building in rendering the greatest service. The building is not only to house books, but it is the service station whose daily function is to get books used. Provision for extensive reference service must be made when the building will be used by older pupils and study club members.

The taxpayers must pay over a long period of years the extra overhead costs, resulting from any lack of wisdom in deciding these things. In a few rare instances, this has been recognized. In Wilmington, Delaware, the new library occupies the most valuable site, commercially, in the city.

If one library can lend 100,000 books per year at a unit cost of 12 cents per circulation, thru a strategic location, while another library with equal zeal, every attention to method, and in a neighborhood of equal intelligence can do no better than a unit cost of 14 cents, due to the handicap of a poor location, it is at least probable that the people of the second are heavily taxed for a serious error in choosing their library site, and it is not at all probable, in the writer's mind, that any better or higher type of service is given at the greater cost.

In the case of a recent building, many persons were amazed to learn that the site had cost more than half as much as the building. This is in sensible contrast to a \$150,000 building on a \$30,000 site on a side street, little patronized, but with overhead costs running on forever to handle a small service.

##### **b) Size and type of building**

Buildings whose narrow dimension faces the main street are difficult to plan and administer, and should be discouraged except in very large cities where front-foot prices are prohibitive. A building which the community would feel appropriate would have its long dimension facing the main street. It would be finished probably in brick where the total cost is over \$20,000, or in stone where total cost is over \$150,000 or \$200,000. Its exterior design would be simple but attractive, with plenty of high windows.

The benefit of having the main floor of the library on sidewalk level is evident to those who study various methods of increasing library patronage. But this has not often been achieved without having a building which looks like a store. The Roseville branch of the Newark library system is more

successful. The two entrances, one at each end, come directly to the sidewalk line, but the main floor is several steps higher than the sidewalk. In a suburban district, the building should doubtless be set back, with front walk, shrubbery, and more elaborate approach. The publicity appeal which is lost by having the building back from the sidewalk can be somewhat made up by an exhibit case at the sidewalk line of the same materials and details as the building.

Interesting experiments in small inexpensive buildings range from the Shawnee branch at Louisville, which is almost a copy of the wooden camp library building, to one or two excellent brick buildings such as the Belmont-Hawthorne branch in Portland. The possibilities of this inexpensive type of building are beginning to be realized, and real study by architects and librarians will secure worthwhile results. Sioux City, Iowa, has just provided \$100,000 in bonds to build six branches, some of which will be of this inexpensive type. Cleveland Heights, Ohio, has an attractive bungalow branch, built by the Circle A Products Corporation of Newcastle, Ind., at a cost under \$3000.

Library planning has been much simplified in the last 25 years thru the gradual tendency to eliminate all permanent inside partitions. Recent branches, even of considerable size, have the entire floor space in one large room, adult and children's work being separated only by low glass partitions or bookcases. The rectangular type of building is the easiest to plan, the most economical to administer and costs the least to construct.

c) *Inclusion of community activities*

If basements could be omitted, building costs would be much reduced. In large buildings, the valuable space beneath the building must be made ready for book storage, future expansion of the work, or for community activities such as lectures and meetings.

In smaller buildings which for many years will continue to operate only as

distributing points, and where there will be neither the demand nor the staff to handle a stock of reference materials, basements may well be omitted unless it is felt that the branch must serve as a community meeting place.

This brings up an interesting point for discussion. Shall a branch library bring into its building, even its basement, a crowd of adults or children, who will create considerable noise and confusion, and who are coming in not to use books but for other purposes? Every library is eager to cooperate in community up-building, but if economy is to be considered, the chief factor is the additional burden which will be placed upon the library budget. If there is some assurance that the library's appropriation will continue to increase gradually with its work, and will always be above \$1 per capita, there may be justification in drawing upon the library funds year after year for the extra janitor work, the heat, light and other overhead for community social activities. The question is whether the money spent for this worthy purpose should be used by the library authorities for increasing book service itself. The decision involves not only the initial expense for building, but the general attitude of the library toward these community activities and the obligation to pay for them out of its own funds.

The growing practice of providing such activities in school houses and churches is sufficiently widespread to warrant their omission from branch libraries, in many cases, especially where funds for real library work are not already generous.

d) *Heat, light, repairs and janitor costs*

These expense factors which have to be included in each annual budget for years to come are often overlooked by the enthusiasts who wish to create a new branch library. The most expensive item of all is the janitor's salary. Recent buildings have been so simplified in their interior and exterior that janitor labor is considerably cut in several larger buildings by housing



the janitor himself in the building, and allowing him to hire out elsewhere for part of his time.

**Relation of building and upkeep cost to cost of library service**

On this topic studies need to be made of individual branches thruout the country, showing the following items:

- Original and present factors in value of site selected
- Original investment in building
- Annual investment in building upkeep, including heat, light, water, janitor service
- Salary expense of all types

- Stock of books, divided as to circulating and reference
- Circulation of books
- Amount and type of reference service
- Resulting unit costs per capita, per book, per assistant

Such studies should be listed among the many problems for research in one of the new graduate library schools.

Just as this article was being copied (May 12) for publication, a table of great value was received from the Milwaukee public library. (Published here by permission of Mr Dudgeon, the librarian, as evidence of the importance of these comparative studies.)

**Milwaukee Public Library**

**Comparative Table of Branch Service and Costs, March, 1926**

Note: Columns 3 and 4 include librarians and pages, but not cleaners; columns 7 and 8 include all service, and heat, rent, etc.

Branches	Circulation	Aggregate hours of service	Aggregate cost of service	No. of circulation per hour of service	Cost of service per Circulation	Total cost of operation	Cost of operation per circulation
Auer .....	11,664	513	259.96	22.7— (6)	.022— (6)	285.56	.024— (2)
Continuation...	9,240	558	377.50	16.5— (13)	.040— (13)	384.50	.041— (12)
Detroit .....	7,830	463	198.50	16.9— (12)	.025— (10)	216.77	.027— (3)
East .....	15,887	812	370.28	19.5— (10)	.023— (8)	513.93	.032— (8)
Lapham .....	9,002	385	190.00	23.3— (3)	.021— (4)	283.15	.031— (6)
Layton .....	14,702	686	273.38	21.1— (7)	.018+ (3)	469.42	.031+ (7)
Lincoln .....	14,980	783	354.88	19.1— (11)	.023+ (9)	549.96	.036+ (11)
Lisbon .....	19,706	863	363.88	22.8— (5)	.018— (2)	662.76	.033— (9)
Llewellyn .....	13,075	667	351.26	19.5+ (9)	.026— (11)	563.90	.043— (13)
North .....	19,612	717	319.68	27.3— (1)	.016— (1)	383.78	.019— (1)
South .....	22,960	991	512.50	23.1— (4)	.022+ (7)	841.00	.036— (10)
Third .....	26,018	1041	549.75	24.6— (2)	.021+ (5)	720.85	.027+ (4)
West .....	10,026	505	272.73	19.8— (8)	.027— (12)	283.62	.028— (5)

Note: Figures in brackets show ranking in their respective columns. The fourth column will doubtless call forth protests at the presumable premium placed on output per hour. It is the author's opinion that until the charging of books in small branches and stations is reduced to these terms of economy, any library with average support is in poor position to talk about "quality." nor can it build up reference work, larger percentage of non-fiction, or skilled individual attention to readers, until its assistants have reduced the desk routine to the minimum of time. The fact that the above branches may have reached a speedier "turn-over" does not in itself prove either that quality is being neglected in the work, nor is less in the minds of the library officials, than in other libraries which are spending much more because they have neglected the study of their methods.

Careful observation of branch work in six cities, leads the writer, without adequate figures as a basis, to the tentative conclusion that an expenditure of over \$1 in building cost, for each 1000 books assured circulation, is not justified out of public funds.

An outline of the development of the Youngstown public library was included in Mr. Wheeler's article but it has been held for presentation at another time.  
—Editor.

**Model sub-branch building**

The general situation thruout the country as to taxation and economical use of public funds, together with the increasing demand for book service, presents as an interesting problem the plan for an attractive, small, easily operated sub-branch building about 25x50 to 30x60, without basement.

In 1920, the White Pine Manufacturers' Association arranged a national contest, among architects, for the best plan of a small village library of pine. This was very successful in its results, as the preliminary statement of the requirements had been carefully prepared by Mr John A. Lowe. At Youngstown's suggestion, the American Face Brick Association is planning, next fall, for a similar contest for a small building, with exterior finished in brick veneer, to cost not over \$10,000 to \$15,000, including the furniture; to be provided, with a small wing or room at rear for furnace and toilet, or else a partial basement sufficient to house these items, the furnace (or heater of Radiola type) to be operated with an oil burner if that would be practical. This latter would be desirable, as it would enable the heat to be regulated by the girl assistant without any other janitor expense, except a high-school boy to come in after school and clean up in an hour or two. Janitor cost for branch buildings in the past has been a heavy expense in operating. The library would consist of one large room about 30x60 ft. The 60 ft. frontage of building would imply a 75 or 100 ft. lot, thus providing for the future addition of a wing, or otherwise enlarging the building, perhaps 20 or 30 years in the future.

This project has been carried further in Youngstown by an agreement by which the apprentices in the public school shop classes maintained under the Smith-Hughes act, will each year build one of these small buildings as their last piece of practice work, without cost for their labor. In this arrangement, the labor unions are co-operating. It is hoped that with this type of labor and with materials bought at cost, or in some cases donated, the net cost of each building will be under \$6000, or \$7000. This money will be secured thru a small annual bond issue. The residents of the various neighborhoods must provide the sites, by subscription.

The impossibility of securing properly located space as large as this, without rental, makes this type of building with its small expense for heat, repairs, and janitor service, the best investment for the physical equipment of a growing city's library service for the next 20 or 25 years. The increase of land value, and freedom from taxes, are still more obvious contributions to the investment.

#### Factors in the establishment of library stations

In the history of all library systems, branches usually grow out of "stations," which are defined by the A. L. A. as small distributing points with no permanent stock of books, open for a brief schedule, and often in the charge of volunteer custodians, factory employees or other persons not on the library staff.

As branches are established and begin to serve the area around them, usually a mile in diameter, the need for stations in that circle largely disappears, and efforts may be directed elsewhere. But even in these circles, if there is a large store, factory or mill, or a point where many persons are concentrated as employees or customers, there is a very profitable field and a large latent book demand. This is illustrated in Youngstown by the amount of service given at the store and factory stations.

The need for stations will therefore continue to exist even after many of the present stations have grown into real sub-branches.

Factors which enter into the establishment of stations are discussed in the report of a senior problem at the New York State library school (see article by Gladys Jones in *Library Journal*, Dec. 15, 1925). They include a) ease of access by crowds at time of day when people can stop to get books; b) cost of custodian, often detailed on company time and payroll; c) attitude of company or organization where station is to be housed; d) probable turnover of books—not less than 10 books per year.

**Cost studies and policies for Youngstown**

On this subject, as on branch operating costs, there are as yet no comparative figures in sufficient quantity. Senior students at the New York library school will undertake such a study. A preliminary study shows that stations operating with volunteer or company custodians lend books at two-tenths cents, while those operating with library employees lend at two cents per book, costs beginning at the point where records are made at central library when the books are sent to the stations. Some of these details are illustrated by the following table of four Youngstown stations in 1924. Los Angeles and Long Beach have made similar studies.

	Brier Hill	Midlothian	Belmont	Cochran Park
Books .....	409	681	489	437
Circulation ..	20,741	13,886	7,971	6,243
Book turnover .....	50.7	20.3	16.3	14.2
Per cent of fiction ...	54	77	82	71
Per cent of juvenile ..	89	47	42	62

Hours open.	468	520	260	312
Book turnover per hours open	44.3	26.7	30.6	20.0
Hrs. of staff (ex. page)	1,170	520	260	312
Bks. circ. per hr. per person (ex. page .....	17.7	26.7	30.6	10.0
	(2½ per)	(1 per)	(1 per)	(1 per)

From these studies we may propose the following policies for station development in Youngstown:

1) Establishment of two to three stations each year as long as bookstock and service can be afforded, at the same time providing for the sub-branch development and the abandonment of stations which are absorbed by sub-branches.

2) Study of situation each year to determine most promising points according to the factors listed above.

3) Careful arrangement in each case, to insure continued interest and coöperation of employers, as a primary condition for the continuance of any station.

## Job Analysis in Education for Librarianship

An informal report on the 1925-26 studies

W. W. Charters, analyst, University of Chicago

In response to many requests for information about the methods used by the staff of the Curriculum Study of the American Library Association, we thought it well to relate the story of what has been done in the preparation of the book on circulation work which is now being tried out in library schools in mimeographed form prior to its release in printed form in the summer of 1927. The story of the preparation of this text is typical, since with slight modifications the same methods will be used in the preparation of all the texts.

Our initial problem was to select the persons who were to do the work. The headquarters staff was our first concern. To form the nucleus of the

staff we needed two young library people who were intelligent, careful, and scientifically minded. These were secured after many inquiries among those who knew the library personnel. As most of our readers know, the people selected were Mr Harold F. Brigham and Miss Anita M. Hostetter. Mr Brigham was graduated from Princeton University and the library school of the New York public library. His most recent practical experience was in New Brunswick, New Jersey, at Rutgers University library and the Free public library. Miss Hostetter is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the Library school of the University of Illinois. Her most recent ex-

perience was at Technical high school, Omaha, Nebraska.

After the selection of these two members of the staff, we turned our attention to the formation of an advisory committee. This committee was so constituted as to represent libraries of different kinds and sizes, and particularly to represent the library schools. The personnel of the committee is known to our readers. The group is recognized as a wise and progressive body of leaders. It was necessary for us to have such a committee in order that we might secure expert advice on numerous questions of policy and procedure. The members of the committee have given freely of their time and intelligence.

Our third personnel problem was the selection of the writer of the text-book. This question was approached with unusual care. The specifications for the author were laid down first. It was felt that the writer should be an authority in his field, one who had wise personal experience and deep enthusiasm to give to the task, and who was able to use with discrimination the materials collected for him by the staff. In their survey of the field, the Advisory committee and the Editorial committee of the American Library Association discussed at length and with frankness the leaders in the field of circulation work who might be available for this important task. In the end, the choice was narrowed to three or four persons, and finally one was selected who could be released to come to Chicago for six months to work on the book in the staff offices. Miss Jennie M. Flexner of the Louisville free public library was this person.

To the staff of five and the Advisory committee should be added approximately 150 librarians who assisted in certain problems, the American Library Association headquarters staff members who were constantly consulted, and numerous other individuals who were asked from time to time for information, advice, and criticism. We should mention particularly one man

who is not a librarian—Mr W. F. Rasche. Mr Rasche is an educator working in the field of industrial education and is expert in the preparation of the instruction sheets so commonly used in that branch of education. With the continuous assistance of the staff, he prepared the 10 practice sheets which have been developed for teaching the essential routine jobs of the circulation department.

In this connection, it is permissible to point to this significant fact—the 150 or more persons directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the text on circulation were all members of the library craft. The function of the director of the study was to provide techniques of investigation which had been used successfully in other fields. But all the library technique was supplied by librarians.

The technique of investigation consists of six steps. First, the duties of the circulation department were very carefully collected. The members of the Curriculum Study staff listed all the duties that they could recall or find in the literature. This list was extended by visits to many different types of libraries where the circulation librarians were asked to add other duties not already included. When the point had been reached beyond which additional interviews failed to reveal new duties, the search ended. The number of duties was found to be 104.

Second, methods of performing these duties were then collected. Obviously, the first source to canvass was the literature. This was done, but not many descriptions of methods were obtained. A much more fruitful source was the circulation department of the libraries. A sampling composed of representative libraries was selected. Geographically, these were spread over the whole country. They represented all major varieties of library—large, medium, and small public libraries, technical libraries, school libraries, and so forth.

Reports on methods used in six distant libraries were collected by mail;



but chief reliance was placed on visits and interviews. Mr Brigham and Miss Hostetter went into the field, remained there eight weeks, and visited in all 55 of these selected libraries. On specially prepared forms, they recorded the methods used in each library with all the common practices and variations noted. The thoroughness of these interviews is shown by the fact that it took an average period of four hours to complete each interview.

Third, at the appropriate time, the interviews were collected in the office and tabulated upon sheets in such form as to make them easily available for use. These tabulation sheets present in compact form the most comprehensive picture of circulation practice ever collected. (The American Library Association is now considering the feasibility of distributing photostatic reproductions of the tabulation sheets at cost for the use of any library that is interested in knowing the common practices and variations in practice in the selected libraries.)

Fourth, the traits of a good circulation librarian were collected. This is obviously a necessary procedure in the analysis of any occupation. It is just as important to know what kind of person a librarian is as to know what duties he performs. Courtesy, accuracy, and interest in people are a few of the 23 essential traits that must be cultivated when the duties of the circulation department are being learned. The analysis was made by the staff with the assistance of Mrs. H. G. Kenagy, who had had previous experience with the technique of trait analysis. The data were secured thru interviews with librarians, heads of circulation departments, and patrons of libraries.

Fifth, with this material to work upon and with rich practical experience, Miss Flexner began writing the text. The directions given her were very brief and very explicit. She was to write the book in her own way, and to put all she had of experience, convictions, and enthusiasm into it. The

Advisory committee had settled certain general policies which she was expected to follow. But the business of the staff members of the Curriculum Study was merely to help her. If she did not wish to use the material they had collected, she was not required to do so. It was obvious, of course, that if some person were simply to write up the routines collected by the staff, the book would be a failure. Naturally, any bright person would eagerly grasp the opportunity to use all this comprehensive material collected by these experienced librarians. Miss Flexner used it freely and constantly. The staff diary, in which only important items were noted, shows at least 90 conferences involving more than 150 problems; and to these would be added innumerable talks about minor matters. On the one hand, we were extremely desirous that the author should put her own ideas into the book, and on the other, that we should give her all the assistance we could. The Advisory committee laid the plans, and we collected the material. Miss Flexner developed the point of view and worked the subject matter into the form which best expressed her own convictions and enthusiasms.

One perplexing problem should be mentioned in passing. With reports of methods used in 55 libraries, the task of selecting the methods to include in the book was harassing. Variations in detail were numerous. To include them all in a book of practical size was impossible. If there had been one best method in each case, the task would have been easy; but with several good methods to be described, it was difficult. No attempt was made to standardize practice. As many variations were described as the limited space would allow, altho a constant attempt was made to evaluate the methods in so far as the author and the staff were able to decide which were the most effective ones, the most frequently used, or the most progressive.

Sixth, after the first draft of the book had been completed in August, it

was mimeographed and sent to the library schools to be tried out under practical teaching conditions. It was sent primarily to the library schools because the Advisory committee had decided that this text should be written for them rather than for training and apprentice classes. In the spring of 1927, the suggestions and criticisms will be collected from teachers and other experts. Miss Flexner will then revise the material, the text will be printed, and the craft will be able to secure it for use by September, 1927.

In brief, this is the story of the preparation of the text entitled *Circulation of books in public libraries*. Miss Mann, who started late on the preparation of the cataloging text on her return from France, will have her first draft ready for trial before September, 1927. Books on selection and reference work are in process of preparation during the present year and should be ready for trial in mimeographed form in September, 1927.

From his position as a layman, the director of the study feels that the point of view set forth by the author of the circulation text is very wholesome. She starts with the fundamental conviction that service to the

public is the essential obligation and privilege of the circulation librarian. She believes that while routines are important, they are useful only as an aid to service. Consequently, routines have been treated as matters to be mastered quickly in order to leave time for the more important duties connected with serving the patrons.

In conclusion, it is accurate to say that this method of preparing textbooks, which is commonly known as job analysis, is not startlingly new. In preparing a text for an occupation, any author will, as a matter of course, study the occupation to discover the duties; then he will try to collect methods of performing the duties and to organize them in good form for learning. This is what has been done in the present case. The difference between our situation and that of most authors is this: We have been able to collect material with greater care and thoroughness than an author ordinarily has the time or money to do. Thru our organization, the American Library Association has provided its authors with an unusual opportunity to work under excellent conditions for writing. This so-called job analysis is not a mystery. It is just common sense.

### Letters—Information and Discussion

#### Not a Fitting Place for Card Games

Editor, LIBRARIES:

I want to question the ethics underlying the practice of holding card parties to which an entrance fee is charged and at which prizes are given to those winning the games. I have seen notices of such in the daily papers and have felt I want to protest to the profession and call aloud for professional disapproval of such proceedings.

The library is a recreational center but of a different kind and in a different class from those that offer such recreation. It isn't an elevating spectacle, to say the least, and in my opinion, a library that engages in card-

playing for money or in card-playing at all is out of bounds and should be reproved if not, indeed, penalized. What shall one do?

Anxiously  
A MOTHER

#### For Free Distribution

Thru the courtesy of the executors of the Samuel J. Tilden Estate, the New York public library has received for distribution to libraries of the United States several copies of Tilden's Letters and literary memorials (2 v.) edited by John Bigelow, and also Tilden's Public writings and speeches (2 v.) The New York public library would be glad to send either

or both of the sets to any public library willing to defray transportation charges. Please address requests to the Acquisition division.

C. L. CANNON  
Chief of Acquisition division

### An Opportunity to Speak

Editor, LIBRARIES:

I wish to express my appreciation of the publication in December's LIBRARIES, of the Recollections and reflections of Dr W. E. Henry of Seattle. There has been, apparently, of late years, a lack of discussion of professional policies from the standpoint of the minority. The majority have usually formulated and explained these policies, but they have not had the benefit of active criticism. Yet authorities generally agree that frank criticism by an active minority is necessary for true progress. Then, too, in addition, as is suggested by your editorial in the December LIBRARIES, criticisms and even inquiries have not always met a very cordial reception at the hands of the dominating committees. The replies to such inquiries and criticisms have too often been personal. Statements have been bandied around that "so-and-so" is getting old" because he is objecting; Mr X is "working off his spleen"; or Miss Q "is mad because she was not on the committee." Such replies are not fair answers to honest criticism.

It seems to me it is very desirable for the future of our profession to have absolutely free and open criticism in our journals and in our meetings without the involving in any way of personalities. The fact that the columns of professional journals are open for such criticisms is a matter of congratulation.

Yours very truly,

CHARLES H. BROWN  
Librarian

Iowa State College  
Ames, Iowa

### The Metric System of Weights and Measures

The metric system of measurement is attracting world-wide attention.

Within the last five years, the metric units have been adopted in Japan, Russia, Poland, Latvia, Morocco, Turkey, Greece, Esthonia, Lithuania, the Netherlands Indies, Siam and Persia. Great Britain and the United States are the only important countries that have not legally adopted the metric system. The names of the terms in these two countries are the same—gallon, bushel, ton, etc.—but they do not signify the same thing to the British as they do to the traders in the United States. The natural misunderstanding of the terms leads to irritation in business transactions.

Congress has the power to fix standards of weight and measure and Congressman Britten of Illinois has introduced a resolution to establish commodity quantity units for general use in merchandising after 1935. This resolution is in the hands of the Committee on Commerce in the U. S. Senate. The decimal principle in the metric system of weights and measures is easily mastered and multiplications and divisions are accomplished instantly by shifting the decimal point. This is an important measure and deserves assistance from all progressive people.

AUBREY DRURY

### Melvil Dewey<sup>1</sup>

Altho much has been said and written of this remarkable man, it is not unfitting that at this period, a review of his library career should be offered since, born in 1851, Dr. Dewey was 75 years old on December 10. A life so active and full of achievement as his can not be brought within a brief summary, but the following are a few of its outstanding features.

Early in 1873, when he was 21 and a junior in Amherst, he devised the Decimal classification, first published in 1876 with 42 pages, and now reaching over 1200 pages.

<sup>1</sup>The request to print this article came from an early member of the A. L. A. and one who has contributed much to its development. The substance of it is already in print but the time and occasion make it fitting to print the article here.—*Editor of Libraries.*

Graduating from Amherst in 1874, he remained there for two years as acting librarian, going to Boston in 1876, where he founded the Library Bureau, of which he was manager till 1883.

When he went to Boston, he had in mind four factors for developing library work: a monthly journal, an American library association, a school for training librarians, and a state department to foster library interests. In September and October of that year, the first two of these ideas took shape in the establishment of *Library Journal*, of which he was managing editor for the first five years, and American Library Association, of which he was secretary, 1876-90. This same year, 1876, he founded the Metric Bureau and the Spelling Reform association, being secretary of both, 1876-83.

In 1883, he went to Columbia College as chief librarian and in 1887 brought to realization the third of the ideas named above by opening the first library school in the world. In December, 1888, he was appointed secretary and executive officer of the University of State of New York, and director of the New York State library, taking office January 1, 1889. The library school followed him to Albany in April of that year.

In 1892 he brought about the establishment of the Home Education department, later called the Educational Extension and now the Library Extension division and thereby realized the fulfillment of the fourth of the four ideas.

During his administration of the New York State library, he established as distinct sections, the Legislative reference section, the Medical library, the Education section, Library for the blind, History section, and Bibliography section, and published five series of bulletins: *Additions*, *Bibliography*, *Library School*, *History and Legislation*, the last of which included three annuals much valued not only thruout America but also abroad—*Digest of governors' messages*, *Review of legislation* and *Index of legislation*.

In line with the founding of the American Library Association was his founding of the New York City library club, the first organization of its kind, of the

New York State library association, and the Library department of N. E. A., while in his work of author and editor, to *Decimal Classification* and *Library Journal* already mentioned, may be added *Library School Rules*, *Library Notes*, editorial connection with *Public Libraries* and the *Library*, and innumerable articles and reports on matters pertaining to education, libraries, metric system and spelling. Mr Longstreth, in his book on the Adirondacks, says: "At 45, Melvil Dewey had planted and seen sprout the seeds of more original and useful enterprises than most Americans achieve at 90," while a prominent judge, writing of him when he was 73, said that, "If his life was measured by the work he had done he would be 150, if by the good he had done he would be older than Methuselah."

At the end of 1905, he resigned from his official relations, and a mute commentary on the situation appeared in a Civil Service announcement of four vacancies: Director of state library, Director of library school, Chief of Educational Extension division, and Chief of School Libraries division, and three appointments were made, directorship of the library school alone being combined with that of the state library.

Except as an inspiring force in librarianship, the record of his work therein might close and it might be well to close this summary with a note from the charter of Lake Placid Club Education foundation. Some of the purposes of the latter are stated as: "To restore to health and educational efficiency, teachers, librarians and other educators of moderate means, who have become incapacitated by overwork . . ."

Dr Dewey still brings to his present interests the same enthusiasm and faith with which thruout his entire life he has faced obstacles which to most men would have been insuperable, and has set in motion, forces which will continue their influence for good thru all the coming ages. AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE



### A. L. A. Catalog of 1926

A "seasoned" cataloger in one of the best libraries in the country speaking (not for publication) of the A. L. A. Catalog of 1926, says:

Miss Bascom seems to me to have been very fair in her criticism in the *Library Journal*.

I probably feel different about it from most others, inasmuch as it seems to me to have been a great mistake to give so much emphasis to the classified catalog, thereby, in my opinion, lessening the use of the catalog itself to librarians of small libraries who are almost universally accustomed to the dictionary form. The index does not take the place of a dictionary catalog.

In running over the Bibliography of Social Sciences, I happened on Laura A. Thompson's List of references on Child Labor which has the serial number 39. In the index it appears under the subject "Children—Employment" with no reference from Child Labor. Under the title Child Labor, reference is made to J. E. Johnsen numbers 4327 and 4332. In the class catalog, 4327 is the serial number for Handbook series, Johnsen's being the third entry in the series. This series is arranged alphabetically by title. 4332 is the entry for Reference shelf. Several of Johnsen's books appear in this series which is arranged by volume number and each volume by the number in the volume. The book in question is volume 3, number 9, the last entry in the series. The books are also entered in the index under the subject "Children—Employment." My point is that there should have been a reference from Child Labor, in which case, the title entry would have been unnecessary and the reference would have covered the Thompson List of references as well as the Johnsen books. Thompson's List of references on child labor is listed in the classified catalog under 016.3, Bibliography of Social Sciences. The two Johnsen books appear under 808.5, Oratory and orations, Debating.

Under 331.3, Labor of children, there is no reference to Miss Thompson's List of references nor to the Johnsen books.

The catalog was submitted to a Library user for his criticism of the drama selection. He has been a lifelong student of drama and is well fitted to judge of that section. He found it difficult to use because of the classified form. To most of our borrowers, it makes no difference whether a drama is by an American, English or Russian author. What they want is a list of the dramas in the library by individual authors. If the index referred to the classes in which these dramas might be found, that would make it somewhat easier. As it is, there is a list of collections but no reference to the location of dramas by individual authors.

What may be a minor criticism refers to the placing of the serial number. Four persons, three experienced catalogers and one experienced user of the catalog, thought that the serial number would precede the entry, instead of which it follows it.

I agree with Miss Bascom that the catalog represents an enormous amount of work, that the notes would gain much by being signed, that the type is clear and that it is a very great misfortune that more emphasis was not placed on type indicating the change from one class number to another so that attention would be more readily attracted. This could have been done by different type and spacing.

The index would be easier to use if authors and titles as well as subjects had been printed in bold face type. As it is, it would appear that all entries following a subject refer to that subject.

There is no question in my mind but that it has been well worth doing, with all its faults. We have already made good use of it. My only regret is that the editors did not take the lesson of the previous catalogs more to heart.

Monthly—Except August  
and September

## Libraries

216 W. Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Mary Eileen Ahern, Editor

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Subscription - - - - -	\$3 a year	Five copies to one library - - -	\$12 a year
Current single number - - - -	35 cents	Foreign subscriptions - - -	\$3.50 a year

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By the rules of the banks of Chicago, an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or postoffice money-orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at market prices.

Contributions for current numbers of **LIBRARIES** should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

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### A Happy New Year to All

THE beginning of another year, the passing of all other years give a chance again to renew one's courage, to overlook the things that were not good, to map out a higher road away from the pitfalls and failures of all other years and to press toward the mark of our high calling. It is a good thing to be in the midst of these days and activities. Never before was there so much to be known, to be done, to avoid, to adjust and to make better, and to no other comes a greater opportunity, for all these, than to the group of sincere, far-seeing and energetic library workers who are to be found in every part of the library field.

There are large problems to be dealt with and they call for large caliber of brain and soul and integrity. These are to be found in the library service. There are also minor problems to be solved, just as important to the success of the whole and more important in the locality where they occur, and far more numerous—these, too, are in the hands and hearts of faithful,

earnest members of the craft, whose contributions are as valuable and praiseworthy as are those of them who sit in the high places.

Books are pouring from the press, as always, good, bad and mediocre, and those who minister them have a grave responsibility to dispense them so that nothing shall be lost of what is worth while. "What is one man's meat is another one's poison" and vigilant knowledge and care must be always on duty in the service that what is meant for each, shall go to him and to none other. This is now the prime goal in library service of every kind and as general intelligence grows and the field of reading expands in every direction, the sacrament of service is the privilege of everyone within the field of books.

And the new year and its new opportunities are yet untouched! To everyone within the confines of libraries this journal, their devoted namesake, offers its best efforts of service, its best wishes for success in all good work and much happiness in the doing.

### Special Library Edition of *The Times*

**A**N ANNOUNCEMENT in the New York *Times* of December 5 states that on January 1, 1927, the New York *Times* will begin to print daily a limited number of its papers on a pure 100 per cent rag paper. These copies will be used exclusively thereafter for the regular bound files supplied to libraries and other archives.

This will be good news to libraries that for 20 years or more have been trying to induce some leading newspaper to adopt this method in order that the newspapers may be preserved for a longer period than is possible under the present system. Historians and those interested in records, have been concerned for a long time for no newspaper has used all rag paper regularly since the more economical wood fiber news-print began shortly after the Civil war. No one knows better than the librarians how great has been the destruction of material printed on the wood fiber paper and they have uttered warnings from time to time that it was inevitable in the course of time that there should be a blank in the history of the period during which the wood fiber paper was used.

There has been nothing found that promises permanent durability. Some reparation has been made in the matter of reinforcing or covering with translucent paper, but even that is a temporary expediency. One or two attempts have been made by newspapers under the persuasion of librarians but the greater expense of using the rag fiber was more than the publishers were willing to carry and it must be said with some embarrassment that the librarians generally did not come to the aid of the project so that it was discontinued after a time. A thousand pities if that should happen again!

And now comes the announcement that all-rag newspaper print is to be used by the *Times* in a special library edition. The cost will be greater but this is an instance where libraries will be justified in making expenditure for the sake of preserving records of the day. It is to be hoped that the support that undoubtedly will be given to the new enterprise will be sufficient to justify the publishers to continue indefinitely this most worthy project.

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### Library Bequests Are Increasing

**D**URING the past few months, there have appeared in various newspapers all over the country, editorials, quotations from speeches of prominent citizens and appeals from librarians, all bringing to the notice of the public the opportunities offered to be helpful in the matter of providing bequests or donations for extensions for the public libraries of the country. This, of

course, may be traced indirectly at least to the presentation last year by Mr S. H. Ranck of Grand Rapids.

It is a matter of satisfaction that here and there over the country the idea has taken root and in more than one instance has promptly borne fruit in gifts to the libraries. The Public library, Chattanooga, Tennessee, received a gift of \$10,000; the Public li-

brary of Binghamton, N. Y., received \$25,000 as "a recognition of valuable service"; the library of Warren, Ohio, \$40,000, and so on, thru a number of instances that might be named, all of which indicate a renewal of interest in libraries as permanent memorials that are worthy of endowment.

This is but the beginning of what ought to be a very meritorious activity, both on the part of the library authorities making the appeal and the public in its response, however small, in meeting the situations offered. One may say with great heartiness, "Let the good work go on."

### A Branch Library Plan

AS AN example of the old adage that a little learning is a dangerous thing, there might be offered an editorial which recently appeared in a leading newspaper in a state which is not particularly well supplied with libraries but into which some ideas and rumors of library organization seem to have percolated. At any rate, the signs of life are there, even if no more evident than the little sprigs of grass coming up thru a wintry soil in a late spring.

A little story going the rounds not long since said of one—

She had the editorial mind, used to reaching conclusions and giving advice.

Here is an instance where an editor advises also.

Considerable interest has been aroused in the proposed branch library plan suggested in an editorial in these columns a few days ago.

Each branch unit could have a condensed index file of all the books in the main library. This would be made practical by a daily delivery service. One man and a Ford truck could attend to this delivery.

A traveling library could later be arranged similar to a standard branch unit. On a semi-weekly schedule this could cover outlying districts.

The branch units could be housed in schoolhouses without expense. The card index files could be condensed and perhaps much of this work done by volunteers. The boxes for these indices could be manufactured at the wood-working shop of the Union high school.

Additional books and magazines could be obtained through community donations. Branch library supervisors could be furnished by volunteers from women's organizations. The branches would only need to be opened a few hours daily and could be closed altogether on Sundays. Skilled help would not be required. The only expense would be the delivery truck, its upkeep, and the wages of its driver. This expense could be provided for by donations from the churches and from civic and other organizations.

The main thing is to get the branch service started. The momentum of the better service received will probably keep it in existence and provide for making the service more and still more efficient in the future. The reading-room feature, while important, is a community asset, and not as important as making a practical extension of the main library facilities, with one-day service from the main library. The location of the branches should be chosen strategically with a view of meeting the needs of concentrated population. By instituting a branch library system now, the city would probably be spared greater expense for the same purpose later. Once established, the branch system would expand and grow as the needs of the community required.



## The Function of the Library in Education

**A**N ARTICLE that will bear special and repeated readings is the Resumé of findings (see p. 36) in *Libraries and Adult Education*, the splendid report presented by the Commission on Library and Adult Education last September. The resumé has been issued as a reprint and in this form, it makes a more incisive impression than when it is read in connection with the other good things in the volume. *LIBRARIES* takes the opportunity to reprint the resumé because of the very fine presentation of library service which it contains.

In the first place, it is in nowise a snap judgment, but "findings" after two years of serious study and analysis of the relation of the library to important work which is not new but which has come under special notice of educators in the last few years under the title of Adult Education. University extension, chautauquas, lecture courses, and the work of the multitude of small libraries over the country particularly, with the ever-growing and more effective realization of what education really is on the part of those engaged in it as instructors and those who view its results and effects in the various relations of life, give a new field of labor and a new aspect of humanity's mental and spiritual endeavors worthy of serious attention.

It is claimed by the commission that the library's contribution has three aspects of activity. These are analyzed and stress what seem to the commission to be important points. An idea in the first aspect that sometimes fails to carry over to the minds of those engaged, is that the library owes a service which is to be supplemented

by suitable books. Where this idea is fully realized, one sees a library for which no excuse need be offered. Where this realization of obligation is not clear and strong, there will be found a sort of arrogance that seems to indicate the idea of an eleemosynary principle underlying the work done. This is a false idea. The community has set up the library as an institution for its own help. It employs presumably an expert to conduct the institution so that its owners may receive from that which they have provided, the greatest amount of good in whatever form the institution is able to provide. When the provision does not meet all the needs of the community, it is the province of the expert in charge to present the defects to the business managers of the institution inducing them as far as possible to provide those things which are needful that the owners of the institution may receive from it the greatest good which their investment is capable of producing.

The second aspect mentioned in the resumé points out certain obligations to furnish information concerning educational work. The library is always first and foremost an educational institution and furnishing information is its fundamental basis. If the information desired or desirable relates to opportunities in the community rather than to information in books, it would seem in no wise to lessen the obligation of the library to furnish it.

The third point that is made is that a fundamental duty of a library is to supply books and printed material for adult education activities maintained

by other organizations. This seems so much a part of the main reason for having a library at all that it need not be discussed further.

There is a point of special moment in the last sentence of the third presentation—"The adequate book supply for students of maturer age may be even more important than for younger scholars in full time schools." *There* is something to think about!

In the investigations of the committee, it was found that the educational methods of today are not creating or arousing in the young, interest in books and reading. School methods are responsible for young people looking on books as only class room tools and reading them in ignorance of the fact that they are really friendly guides in the solution of life's problems as

well as sources of pleasure and culture.

Another point that is of importance is the character of the books available at present for educational work with adults. There is a call for humanized, readable books for adults who have lost the reading habit or by whom it has not been acquired.

It may be stated again that the Resumé of findings is full of ideas appealing directly to those who serve in libraries and it is reprinted in these pages to afford every person in library service a chance to read it thoughtfully with good results.

Doubtless other parts of the report also will furnish from time to time valuable extracts applicable to special subjects and occasions. The report is full of valuable information and wise deductions.

#### Another Interesting Volume

Another interesting volume which has come into the possession of the A. L. A., and is to be seen at A. L. A. Headquarters in Chicago, is the Membership Accession Book compiled by Mrs Henry J. Carr. It is an enormous volume, hand-written, and contains membership information relating to those who have joined the American Library Association in the order of their joining—number one thru number 13125. The last date is February 28, 1925. The A. L. A. accession number of membership is 16216. The intervening numbers remain yet to be added before the book is complete.

Following the entry of the name of the member is the position at time of joining, followed by a record of the conferences that have been attended. Entry is made if they are life members and also one if death has occurred.

This has been a work of personal interest on the part of Mrs Carr and it may be said to be, also, a work of love. How could it be otherwise! Mrs Carr,

stands second on the list for the number of conferences attended and she has always been a prime favorite with the rank and file. The compilation of this book as well as a review of it from time to time must have brought to her wonderful memories of association and incidents of interest and affection. The enormous volume is all hand-written and represents a prodigious amount of labor which only an actual personal interest could have made possible under the circumstances.

These two volumes—the one compiled by Dr Justin Winsor and this by Mrs Carr—deserve places of honor in the library of the A. L. A. The A. L. A. library, by the way, might be made an object of interest and something more on the part of the general membership while, of course, those concerned with the administration of association affairs need material close at hand. It is always possible to obtain current information even if it is not at hand in printed form, but such records as these two volumes, and others that

may be thot of, which in the mutations of time are likely to be neglected by succeeding owners, should find a place at Headquarters so that something of research material and authentic information as to the development of the association and particular phases of its growth might be accessible to the membership of coming years. While the growth of the work itself is the best monument to these long years of faithful service, at the same time, there are elements of interest accumulated with the years that are worthy of preservation at permanent headquarters of the association and even thru the changes of the personnel of the membership should be preserved.

And so it may well be said that the membership, present and to come, is again indebted to Mrs Carr for another definite evidence of her good will toward the development of the work on the historical side.

Publishers both in America and England are outdoing themselves and each other in the amount of work and attention they are giving to their book catalogs. They are really works of art—paper, printing, make-up, covers. One is as fine as another. All are of superior quality. The contents are attractive, but when it is a question of how best to spend a small sum, the reader is resolved into the state described by the poet:

"How pleased I would be with either,  
Were t'other dear charmer away."

#### A New Tool

An Economic History society has been formed in England to publish the *Economic History Review* the first number of which is to appear January, 1927. The editors are E. Lipson of Oxford University, and R. H. Tauney of the London School of Economics. Sir William Ashley is president of the society. In the chief countries of the world there are corresponding members. America is represented both on the list of officials and on the Council. Success and a long life of useful-

ness seemed assured. Its *Review* will be the only one devoted to economic history, printed in the English language. It is designed to serve American as well as English readers.

The membership is 10s. 6d. for individual scholars and 7s. 6d. for libraries. The address of the treasurer, J. A. White, Esq., is 43 Dora Road, S. W. 19, London, England.

N. S. B. GRAS

#### Points in Reading

"The 13 points for children's reading" given in the New York *Herald-Tribune's Books*, November 7, listed by Anne Carroll Moore, supervisor of work with children, New York public library, has been issued in a reprint by the National Association of Book Publishers. This is a good association with which to keep in touch. The executive secretary, Miss Marion Humble, is most successful in gathering material to encourage intelligent reading. Her bulletins, many of which may be had for the asking, always have suggestions for everybody the least interested in books.

"The 13 points for children's reading" are really 13 good points for anybody's reading. Peruse the following for proof of that statement:

1. Reading is an end in itself; its object is lifelong pleasure and profit.
2. Love of reading is induced by natural exposure to books in early childhood; it cannot be graded.
3. Thoro mastery of the mechanics of reading is essential. It is akin to the learning and practice of the rules of the game in the world of sport and should be so represented to children.
4. Reading should be more commonly treated as a sport of continuous interest in all schools.
5. Reading for credit or reward of any description is destructive to spontaneous joy and cheapens the whole idea of reading.
6. Children's tastes in books are more varied and variable than the tastes of grown-ups. Children's tastes should be respected, but they should also be constantly enlarged and enriched by familiar association with books beyond the taste of the moment.
7. The selection, replacement and duplication of books for the school library is a matter of prime importance, since it repre-

sents the practical equipment for making an active sport of reading.

8. Choose books for positive values—the interest of their subject, old or new, their originality, their pictures, clear typography, and attractive outward form. It is better to buy 12 good books you know that children will read than 24 lifeless editions to stand in rows on the shelves.

9. Appreciation of good form in children's books is an active factor in getting books read. It may be developed by observation and much browsing among the books selected for children's reading rooms in public libraries and in such bookshops as give special attention to the matter.

10. All graded lists are fallible. Both literature and children stoutly resist grave limitations.

11. Reviews, lists and articles on children's reading must meet the test of accredited knowledge and experience in this special field. Signed reviews of children's books are therefore essential to their value as appraisals.

12. Reading aloud is an art. No one should attempt to read aloud to children of any age who has not mastered the mechanics of reading with intelligence and expression. The poor reading of many school children is but the reflection of the poor reading of their teachers and parents.

13. Don't read nonsense unless you see the sense of it and can "put fun into your voice."

### Features for Book Displays and Publicity

January-April, 1927

The bulletin issued by the *Year-Round Bookselling News* has listed book days that should be stressed for the next four months, taking advantage of special days that have been recognized and recorded. The list is as follows:

#### January

New Year's Day. Resolve to read more books during 1927. Plan to add a few books to your library each month of the new year.

Travel Books. Read Your Way Around the World. Guide-books; novels and essays by foreign authors; illustrated travel books; books on international questions. Coöperate with local banks and travel agencies.

National Thrift Week, January 17-23. Books on investments and on personal household expense budgets.

#### February

Lincoln's birthday, February 12. Biographies, books about the Middle West, history of Civil war.

Washington's birthday, February 22. Biographies, books about the Revolution and early American history, books on American art and furniture.

Valentine's day, February 14. Books, the best Valentine gift.

National drama week, February 13-19. Drama League of America, 59 E. Van Buren St., Chicago. Books on the history and art of the theater, books of plays. Coöperate with local little theater groups, women's clubs and schools.

#### March

Religious books. First day of Lent, Wednesday, March 2. The Bible; books on religion and philosophy.

Girl Scouts' international month, March. Headquarters, 670 Lexington Ave., New York. Books for young girls, that promote international friendship and knowledge of other countries.

Health books.

#### April

Easter Sunday, April 17. Religious and devotional books; books for Easter gifts.

National garden week, second or third week. General Federation of Women's Clubs, 1734 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C. Books for the amateur and the expert gardener, books on outdoor life.

### Valuation of Library Books

Mr Morris Gest, producer of *The Miracle*, is a believer in the power of the public library. In a recent conference with Secretary C. H. Milam of A. L. A., Mr Gest said:

I believe that a young man or a young woman can add more to their cultural wealth by reading five good books, intelligently selected, than by spending two years in college.

The greatest need in America today is culture. Most young people realize this but vaguely.

The modern library satisfies the starvation of the mind in very much the same manner that food satisfies the gnawing pangs of physical hunger. The day of the library that could be enjoyed only by students and the wealthy is past, and the new generation is equipped thru the present day library for the constant battle of modern civilization that requires a keen intelligence of those who would succeed.

Mr Gest expressed his firm conviction, based on his own experience, that the public library can be made a more powerful factor in the development of contemporary America than all the colleges and universities. He has also shown much interest in plans for a reading course in dramatic appreciation and, indeed, in all phases of the arts.



### Death's Toll

How small a part of time they share  
That are so wondrous sweet and fair.

Mary L. Davis, for more than a quarter of century librarian of the Public library, Troy, N. Y., died as the result of being struck by an automobile, November 29, 1926. A user of the library writes of Miss Davis as follows:

"The large circle of readers centering about the Troy public library will for a long time sadly mourn the sudden death of Miss Mary L. Davis, the librarian. With quiet graciousness, she has been a vital constructive force in the intellectual life of the city. She gladly placed the keys of her storehouses of knowledge in the hands of whoever approached her, always adding an adroit suggestion and a telling personal touch.

Without the liberating power of a large financial endowment, Miss Davis contrived to forward cultural interests in many fields. An artist was placed in touch with an illuminating and unusual book on her subject; a citizen interested in the early history of Troy was guided to half-forgotten scrap-books; a lecture committee was given valuable suggestions as to what speakers would be likely to appeal to public taste; a frequenter of the library was introduced to the fascinating hobby of collecting book-plates; members of organizations were enriched by her individual stores of suggestive information gleaned from wide contacts with current affairs.

For years, she did much to focus the art interest in Troy and even when the library facilities were meager welcomed exhibits of posters and prints. It was due to her interest that three small galleries in the building were recently re-decorated by one of her trustees to provide a charming setting for loan exhibits of a more formal nature arranged to form a permanent contribution to the cause of art in Troy but is merely the most obvious and concrete of her many gifts of tactful suggestion to the community.

Miss Davis made the library more than a collection of books or a volume of reference material. Her broad sympathies and her rare culture served as a quickening source of inspiration which bore fruit in many successful enterprises in which she took no outward part; and many remember with lasting personal gratitude new doors opened and prospects widened by her rich wisdom."

Before going to Troy, Miss Davis had a varied library experience, her most important posts being librarian of the Lawson-McGhee library at Knoxville, Tenn., 1892-96, head of the cataloging department, Pratt Institute free library, Brooklyn, 1896-1904, and instructor in cataloging at the Pratt Institute school of library science, 1898-1902.

Miss Davis was of a quiet, retiring disposition but to those who knew her, she showed many endearing qualities that made her a beloved companion. She was of the A. L. A. party that went to the International library meeting in London in 1897, and none was a greater favorite with her companions. She was admired by the great Mr. Lecky of England by Mr. Lyster of Ireland, by Mr. Nicholson of Oxford, for her quiet sense of humor and kindness of heart, as well as her gracious manner and her faith and delight in her work. The words of praise spoken of Miss Davis by her friends in Troy find a ready assent in the hearts of her friends everywhere.

The Academy of Arts in Germany recently decided to include authors and scholars in its membership which before had been limited to painters and sculptors. Among the first few to be asked to membership was Gerhart Hauptmann but to the amazement of the Academy, the invitation was firmly but politely refused. Mr. Hauptmann's reason for his declination of the invitation was that introducing a foreign element into an academy with fixed rules was stultifying and bad for German letters.

### A. L. A. Notes

#### Executive Board action

The A. L. A. Executive Board held four sessions in November in Chicago.

Burton E. Stevenson was designated as the official representative of the A. L. A. at the meeting of the American Legion in Paris during the summer of 1927.

The following new committees were appointed:

A committee on library work with children, the duties of which in relation to other committees are to be defined by the Committee on committees.

A committee on radio broadcasting, to study broadcasting by libraries and similar agencies.

A committee on public branches in school buildings, to consider the general principles involved in the use of school buildings for public library branches and deposit stations in the city and in the country, and to cooperate with representatives of other associations in making the study.

A committee on subscription books.

A committee to study the development of reading habits; to continue the study begun by the Commission on the Library and Adult Education, and to plan for a study of effective methods of developing reading interests and habits—the project to be shared jointly by librarians and teachers.

It was voted that the A. L. A. join the World Federation for Education associations, and the American Council on Education, and that a representative should be appointed to the board of directors of the Bureau of Language Research, of the National Council of Teachers of English.

In accordance with the desire of the British library association, it was decided that the A. L. A. Sesquicentennial exhibit be shipped to Edinburgh for display there next September.

A resolution from the Round Table on Public Documents urging that depository privileges to libraries be made more elastic, and that legislation be

promoted to achieve this purpose was approved.

#### Library and adult education

The Board on the Library and Adult Education met at A. L. A. headquarters, December 13, 1926.

Plans were made for continuing the study of adult education service of libraries and for carrying out the recommendations of the Commission on the Library and Adult Education adopted by the Council.

The Board appointed a special committee to continue the study of readable books, to cooperate with publishers to determine the kinds of books needed by adult students, and to bring them into existence. Efforts will be made to determine the subjects on which books are needed, and the style, method, language, length, and form best suited to the average reader.

#### Editorial committee

With regard to the Reading with a Purpose series, the A. L. A. editorial committee have agreed to continue to select subjects for which there is evidence of general or at least considerable demand, rather than to make a chart of the fields of knowledge and follow it methodically. In spite of some suggestions received that the vocational field be entered, the committee decided against this for the present, feeling that such a departure would be so radical as to alter the character of the courses and to call for a new approach and treatment. Subjects for future reading courses agreed upon are as follows: American fiction, good English, American expansion as told in fiction, twentieth century Americans, European history told in fiction, international relations, the stars, founders of the Republic, the world's religions, and the theater.

Sales of the reading courses mount steadily and on November 1 had passed 213,000.

The Editorial committee proposes to investigate the publishing activities of other professional organizations, of the university presses and other publishers of library materials and to suggest to

the Executive Board a definition of the publishing field of the A. L. A.

During the first two months of its existence the *A. L. A. catalog 1926* had sold to the number of 2199 copies.

Cannons' *Bibliography of library economy* will be published January 1, 1927. Price \$18.

#### Board of education for librarianship

The Board of Education for Librarianship held a meeting at Chicago, November 22. This was the annual organization meeting. Adam Strohm was elected chairman. The constituency of the board remains the same, Harrison W. Craver, retiring member, having been reappointed by the Executive Board. Plans were made for visiting schools which desired to be measured by different standards owing to curriculum changes.

Harriet E. Howe in November visited courses in library science at George Washington University and Gallaudet College in Washington, D. C. Gallaudet College is the only one known to the Board which gives instruction in library methods to the deaf. Edith M. Nelson, librarian, is doing pioneer work in her field with most interesting results. If any such courses are offered elsewhere the Board would be glad to learn of them.

Lucile F. Fargo spent 10 days in December visiting Wisconsin colleges which offer courses in library science.

#### Library Extension

##### A review of the work of the A. L. A. committee

"Organized effort toward the goal of adequate public library service within easy reach of everyone in the United States and Canada" was approved by the A. L. A. Council at the Fiftieth Anniversary conference in accepting the report of the standing Committee on Library Extension. The resolution provides that the work is to be carried on under the direction of the committee, from Headquarters offices, in the closest coöperation with the League of library commissions and all other interested agencies. Methods suggested

are: field agents, publicity, free and wide distribution of publications, surveys, study and compilation of library laws, encouragement of demonstrations and experiments and of private subsidies.

A beginning in this large field is being made. For the year 1926-27, the Executive Board has allowed a budget providing for an executive assistant and a stenographer, travel and printing, supplies, postage, etc. From the many desirable activities, the committee is choosing the most fundamental and far reaching that are within its purse.

Calls for help from states with active state library extension agencies are, as a matter of principle, being referred to these agencies. In states without state library extension agencies, the committee is coöperating with the state library associations. The Extension report, for example, has been sent to leaders of influential state organizations in the hope of arousing interest in libraries in general and in state library extension agencies in particular. Other publicity material as well as counsel has been given new state agencies and library associations.

Wide newspaper and magazine publicity had already been given the advance findings. This has been followed by sending out review copies of the whole report to the more important magazines and a much wider distribution of reprints of the summary of objectives and findings and of the statistical tables, with an explanatory news release.

Another step in national publicity and in establishing coöperation in library extension with national rural, educational and social agencies was distribution of paper copies of the report to a carefully selected mailing list. The response has shown a genuine interest in the problem. For example, the presidents of the American Country Life Association and the American Federation of Labor wrote immediately that they would use the material as a basis for editorial comment in their

organs. The professor of rural sociology at the University of South Carolina responded: "We are next week devoting our whole issue of the *Weekly News* to a summary of the findings that you presented." Personal contacts have been made at the National Country Life conference in Washington, and thru visits to organization headquarters in Washington and New York. Everywhere leaders are ready to hear of the library extension program and are cordial in offering help.

The crying need for small publications has been faced. Publications in preparation are an illustrated pamphlet on county libraries and a revision of "Why do we need a public library." Copy was prepared for the League of library commissions for a small "Rural public library service handbook" and final editorial work and printing were cared for at the request of the busy League officers. The committee will distribute the booklet for the League in states without state library extension agencies. Mimeographed material has been prepared for emergency needs.

The personnel of the committee is: Chairman, C. B. Lester, Wisconsin Free Library commission; Mary J. L. Black, Public library, Fort William, Ontario; Milton J. Ferguson, State library, Sacramento, California; Paul M. Paine, Public library, Syracuse, New York; Charlotte Templeton, Public library, Greenville, South Carolina; Executive assistant, Julia W. Merrill, A. L. A. Headquarters, Chicago.

#### U. S. Civil Service Examination

The U. S. Civil Service commission announces an open competitive examination for book binders to fill vacancies in the government Printing Office at Washington and in positions requiring similar qualifications. Applications must be on file in Washington not later than January 11. Wages, \$1 an hour—extra compensation for extra service. Competitors will not be required to report for examination at any particular place.

#### Concerning Library Posters

The last few years have brought about a new development in library work. It is that of educating the public to a greater knowledge and appreciation of library services thru the use of posters. Libraries are very rich in constructive material—material that would make possible fuller and happier lives for every member of the community, but people do not realize that it is there. In the past, the work of telling them has been carried on by librarians thru personal service. The task is a big one, for a whole mass of people must be educated.

Posters are an ideal help to this end. They are both direct and forceful in ability to attract attention and convey a message. They reach a large number of people at a time, and have been found equally successful with both children and adults.

Posters are a definite departure from picture bulletins. The latter lose in effect because they combine two units of equal importance, a picture and a list. Each must make way for the other. Picture bulletins are really illustrated lists. Lists are valuable, but most effective when the list occupies the central position, and decoration is added to enhance its attractiveness. The lower case letters of such a list should be at least a quarter of an inch high. Typewriting on a wall has no power to attract.

Used inside the library, posters attract the patron to displays of books. It is worth while to have a complete or well rounded list of books on the subject in a binder on the shelf with the display. Then if the borrower does not find a book to his liking, he may look over the list and reserve one. Such displays act as a key to the shelves, which often look very forbidding to the new-comer.

Used in library windows, outside bulletin boards, available space in factories, public buildings, etc., they reach the people who are not as yet patrons.

Posters should be positive, specific, and relate directly to library work.



Definite statements stick whether they refer to books or state a fact about library service. This principle is recognized in the publicity work of many big organizations, two of which are The London Underground and The Chicago Elevated Lines. Both of these companies state definite places that they can take passengers. Libraries tell patrons about definite kinds of books that they have. The superiority of "Books for the music lover," over "Read more Books," can be seen immediately. Holiday posters that do not have direct bearing on library work are of little value.

The history of posters in our age has been comparatively brief. They first appeared in Europe about 25 years ago, but did not come into great prominence either here or abroad until the war when they were used to such great advantage. Since then, their use has increased rapidly. Their advantage over other forms of picture advertising is that they are a true art form, and for that reason have a completeness and dignity which other forms lack. Their quality in the publicity field can be estimated to some extent by noting the types of institutions that use them: governments, museums, art galleries, transportation lines, theatres, etc.

This is a practically undeveloped field in library work. In most libraries it has not the recognized place that it inevitably will have, for as a means of raising public appreciation, outside of personal contact, it is without equal. Greater appreciation results in better patronage, a more comprehensive attitude and more hearty support.

Miss Margaret Schneider who makes such wonderful posters said recently in answer to the question Why am I making library posters and how did it come about:

After working in a branch library for two years where I did more or less picture bulletin work I left to take a course in art work at the Art Institute of Chicago. That was really the work I liked and wanted to do, and there was no reason why, after a number of years spent in the study of art, it could

not be applied to library advertising which also interested me. So when I went back to the library most of my time was spent in that work. The branch librarian knew the value of an attractive room and quickly recognized the worth of posters. We soon found that picture-bulletins took much time to make, and were comparatively ineffective. Available material was generally scarce and often not what we wanted as we had to depend entirely on such pictures as we could cut from magazines, etc. So we started making our own original posters. This made it possible to plan a program and carry it out, to make posters just suited to library use, and of a size that would attract attention.

The increase in circulation was noticeably rapid. Many persons passing by would notice the window display, look around for a few minutes, and hesitatingly enter, for the first time, into a library. Sometimes the inquirer would put in an application for a card but if not, he or she was almost always sure to come back again when the window display was altered and again took his attention. Another noticeable result was that children would tell their parents about the displays and eventually bring them to the library.

But this was an expensive way of advertising. It takes much valuable time to make original drawings and then we had only one poster in one branch, and there are more than forty in the city of Chicago alone, not to speak of all the libraries in the country adjoining and all needing the same kind of publicity work!

Copies are just as effective as an original drawing, and if produced in large numbers cost less than an assistant's time spent in making picture bulletins.

The first free library in England was opened at Manchester in 1852. Dickens, Thackeray, Bulwer-Lytton and Monckton Milnes, afterward Lord Houghton, were among the speakers at the opening ceremony.—*Exchange*.

### Library Meetings

**Arizona**—A state library association was organized at Phoenix, on November 12. Membership is open to any person directly interested in library work in Arizona and the purpose is to extend the usefulness of libraries thruout the state.

Officers were elected as follows:

President, Con P. Cronin, Arizona state librarian; first vice-president, Mrs Mary C. Lambert, Phoenix public library; second vice-president, T. J. Cookson, Tempe State Teachers College library; secretary-treasurer, Miss Estelle Lutrell, University of Arizona library.

An advisory board of 14, one from each of the 14 counties of the state, was agreed upon. This board is to be selected from the membership of farm bureaus, women's clubs, parent-teacher associations, county school superintendents and the American Legion.

The next meeting will be held in Tucson during University week in January, 1927.

**Arkansas**—The eleventh annual meeting of the Arkansas library association was held in Little Rock, November 12-13, with a greater number than ever before being present. Librarians and others felt that a refreshing and stimulation of enthusiasm was one of the best results of attending this meeting, because of "touching elbows" with each other as well as hearing what was being done in other parts of the state and elsewhere.

The program was interesting and full, stress being laid upon the discussion of a county library law and the Free Library Service Bureau.

The feature of the program was an address by Mrs J. R. Dale. Mrs Dale is secretary of the Oklahoma library commission, also president of the Southwestern library association. On the subject, "Outlook of libraries," speaking of the profession of librarianship, the love for and pride one should take in it, preparation for the work, ways of carrying it on, library legislation, giving concrete examples

of things that had come to pass in Oklahoma, her talk was so interesting, her enthusiasm such an inspiration to her listeners that no one wondered that rapid strides had been made in library progress in the state of Oklahoma, with such a stimulant as Mrs Dale at the head of the work. The presence of Mrs Dale during the whole meeting, her address, her helpful suggestions in all discussions, her individual conference with many, all are sources of inspiration for time to come.

Miss Blake Beem of University of Arkansas Medical School library was re-elected president for 1927; Mrs Carroll Bishop of Pine Bluff, Miss Jim P. Matthews of Fayetteville, Miss Eliza Johnston of Conway, vice-presidents; Miss Evie Shaw of Conway, secretary-treasurer.

The meeting closed with a most enjoyable tour of Little Rock libraries.

INA H. KNERR

**Chicago**—The first meeting of the Chicago library club for the current year was held, November 17, at Chicago Woman's club, which is to be the regular meeting place for the season.

In spite of the very stormy night, over 100 assembled to hear Dr Guppy, the speaker of the evening.

He brought the Library club four-fold greetings from the "Old Country," from the British Library Association, of which he is president; from the University of Manchester, which he represents; from the John Rylands library, of which he is librarian; and in his personal capacity as friend, colleague, and kinsman. He expressed most generously the sense of indebtedness which Europe owes to American pioneer work in bringing libraries freely to the people, and an especial debt to the personalities behind the movement, such as Melvil Dewey and R. R. Bowker, whom the A. L. A. conference at Atlantic City recently particularly delighted to honor. It was the U. S. government report of the activities of American libraries in 1876 which aroused his ambitions to become

a librarian, and he has never regretted the step.

For the most part Mr Guppy's address was a summary of the one he gave at the conference, on the "Power of personality," and no one who heard his simple and sincere eloquence could fail to receive inspiration from it. As at Atlantic City, he closed with the statement that there is no limit to the good we can do, as librarians or as individuals, so long as we do not care who gets the credit for the doing of it. Dr Guppy was most cordially received and made many sincere admirers by his address and his charming personality.

After Dr Guppy's address, Mr J. R. Patterson of the Chicago public library, presented a stereopticon report of the Chicago special train to the A. L. A., including points of interest along the way, and ending with a tribute to Dr W. F. Poole, one of the founders of the A. L. A. and organizer of both the Chicago public and Newberry libraries. A slide showed the bronze bust of Dr Poole, presented to the Public library by the A. L. A. in 1898 and now standing under the dome on the third floor of the main building.

LYDIA G. ROBINSON

Secretary

**Connecticut**—The annual meeting of the Connecticut library association was held, November 16-17, at Putnam.

In her address, the president, Miss Corinne Bacon, paid tribute to Caroline M. Hewins, saying, in part, "Who will supply the wisdom and the enthusiasm with which Miss Hewins supplied us unstintedly? Who will do the hard work she did in her years of strength? It may take several of us to fill the gap, but the work of libraries must go on in this state of Connecticut where so many nationalities are working to help create the America of tomorrow.

Miss E. Louise Jones of Boston gave a comprehensive talk on "The measuring stick for rural libraries." She compared the town library systems of New England with the county systems of California and Oregon, and made

many helpful suggestions about budgets, book selection, library housekeeping and librarians' professional opportunities.

At the evening session, Dr Harry Elmer Barnes, professor of historical sociology, Smith College, gave a lively address upon Intellectual freedom and human progress.

Wednesday morning was entirely a business session. The president gave her views and suggestions in a paper entitled The policy and work of the C. L. A. Following this Mrs Johnson spoke on Relations between the association and the Connecticut library committee.

Questions on how far the association should be responsible for group meetings, whether a bulletin should be published and the duties of an education committee were discussed.

At the final session, a helpful and entertaining talk about Foreign picture books, by Miss Leonore St. John Power, of the New York public library, was presented.

Attendance registered 75, and the occasion was thoroly profitable as well as pleasant.

The officers for the ensuing year are: President, Charles L. Wooding, Bristol; secretary, Alice Keats O'Connor, Farmington; treasurer, Ruth B. McLean, Hartford.

GRETA E. BROWN

**District of Columbia**—Dr Ernest C. Richardson, honorary director of Princeton University library, and at present consultant at the Library of Congress, addressed the District of Columbia library association at a meeting held November 17 in the Mt. Pleasant branch of the Public library on "International library coöperation and our local problems." In a practical and inspiring way, Dr Richardson presented the plans for international coöperation, his observations of European libraries and library schools and the problems facing the local libraries.

An informal reception followed the meeting where the members of the association had the opportunity of

meeting Dr and Mrs Richardson and also Mlle Aline Payen and Thor Andersen, delegates from France and Norway to the conference at Atlantic City, who are remaining in Washington for the winter.

**Florida**—The first of what is hoped will be annual district meetings for librarians, was held at the Tampa public library on December 4, 1926. The meeting was for mutual information and discussion of library problems. Trustees, librarians and assistants were present from St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Winter Haven, Bartow, Tampa Shores, Dunedin, Zephyrhills and Tampa.

Miss Gates, assistant-librarian of the Tampa public library, was chairman of the meeting. Mrs Davies, librarian of the Dunedin library, gave a number of interesting state news notes which included these items: the State *Bulletin* is to be edited by Miss Brumbaugh of Orlando; the Orlando library is to celebrate Music week; invitations have been received by the Florida State library association from several cities to hold the state meeting there; the state committee on the selection of books for high schools has been recommended to confer with the librarians of public libraries thruout the state; no library commission for the state has, as yet, been appointed by Gov. Martin. This commission was created by the passage of the bill approving such a commission by the State legislature in 1925. The need of a library commission is felt more and more in Florida, the need becoming acute at the time of the recent disaster in the Miami district.

Miss Hester Bonham, librarian of the Winter Haven library, gave a review of some recent outstanding children's books: Shen of the sea, David goes a voyaging, Winnie the Pough; Round Robin Hood's barn and Irwin's School stories for girls. A number of librarians gave interesting accounts.

Thirty-six attended a luncheon at noon, after which cars were provided for a tour to Tampa's three branch

libraries, Hyde Park, West Tampa and Harlem.

The afternoon session was opened by a round-table discussion led by Miss Moase. The chief topics were: How many volumes per person per year can be circulated by a competent staff; Good reference books on Florida; Tourist and other transient cards; Fines; Problems of library extension.

Miss Worth, librarian of the George Washington junior high-school library, gave a talk on the peculiar problems of a high-school librarian and how to solve them.

Miss Eunice Coston, librarian of the Lakeland library, gave a description of their new library building and the various excitements of starting with nothing and building up a real library in six months. The Lakeland library will open to the public on January 1, 1927.

The afternoon was pleasantly completed by the reviewing of two books by Mrs Merritt, assistant-librarian of St. Petersburg. The books reviewed were *The backs of books*, by W. W. Bishop, and *Dark dawn*, by Martha Ostenso.

Tea was served by the Tampa library staff after the session had adjourned.

F. ADELE MASTERSON  
Secretary

**Indiana**—The Indiana library association and the Indiana Library Trustees association met in joint sessions in Indianapolis, December 9-11. The Indiana historical association was in session at the same time. Miss Nellie M. Coats, president of the I. L. A., and Mrs W. R. Davidson, president of the I. L. T. A., conducted the meetings.

At the opening session Thursday afternoon, Prof Francis C. Tilden of DePauw University, gave a very hot provoking discussion of the topic "Young people and modern literature." Prof Tilden told the 300 or more assembled that the librarian's difficulty in guiding the 15 to 20 year old group of young people, lies in the realm of fiction, showing that the young people of today read books emotionally stimulating to people 20 years older than



themselves. He felt that while a great deal of modern fiction is creating the idea of courage, it is neglecting the idea of moral courage.

Thousands of our young people are reading modern fiction which should be perused only in a psychology clinic. New histories and books of psychology and fiction which are tremendously upsetting to old conceptions are flooding the land. How are educators and librarians to determine what is good and what is bad?

Miss Jessie Van Cleve of the A. L. A. *Booklist*, in her always pleasing manner, dealt with the librarian's privilege in serving the children by opening the doors to a new world. Miss Van Cleve with enthusiastic comments, gave a list of 15 or 20 titles of new books for children. She stated that the 1926 Catalog shows that books dealing with the child and his habits of reading are receiving due recognition.

Miss Ernestine Bradford of the Indianapolis public library told of the interesting library service conducted at the Riley hospital, and of its growing power and pleasure.

Mrs Davidson presided at the annual banquet. During the dinner hour, Prof C. F. Hansen of Indianapolis rendered an enjoyable pipe organ program. "Indiana verse and comment" was assigned William Herschell, Mrs F. C. Tilden, and Mrs Kate Milner Rabb; each in his individual way pleased his audience with readings and comments. Mrs W. D. Long gave, for Mrs J. R. Mitchell, readings from the latter's recently published book.

Praise for librarians of Indiana for their valuable assistance to the state historical commission in its efforts to collect sources from which Indiana history is written was expressed by Mrs Rabb.

"The collection and preservation of old letters, diaries and copies of the daily papers is an invaluable aid to the writers of Indiana history," Mrs Rabb said, "for from these sources a true and accurate picture of the time and events can be drawn."

In traveling over Indiana, Mrs Rabb said that she is finding that the public libraries as community centers are ever making more valuable contributions to the enrichment of life in the region they serve.

The evening closed with the entertaining play, *Exit Miss Lizzie Cox*, presented admirably by the Indianapolis public library staff.

Miss Coats presided at the next general session on Friday morning. E. L. Craig of Evansville presented the subject "Financing of a library building." Mr Craig showed the lack of authority in law for a library board to issue bonds and told of the round-about way the Evansville board had to travel to acquire its new library building. Mr Craig suggested that in place of trying to get around the law, or creating a new one, the present library law be amended so as to permit library boards, not only to receive, but to have power to purchase real estate.

L. J. Bailey, director of the Indiana state library, led the discussion "Why we do not have more county libraries." He answered it by saying they evidently were not popular in Indiana. He pointed out that California with 58 counties has 42 county libraries while Indiana has 13 out of 92. Only one-third of Indiana's population now has access to public library service. He answered the question "What can we do?" by replying, "Agitate."

Ross F. Lockridge of Bloomington, well known as a speaker and writer of Indiana history, made a plea for interest in the George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial to be held in 1929. He spoke of Clark as a Hoosier hero, whom the Indians admired and we should honor.

Mr F. K. Walter, librarian of the University of Minnesota, spoke upon Certification. He confessed he could not define his topic, saying it is too closely bound up with standardization, which is an attempt to get persons qualified to do a more or less definite grade of work. Certification, Mr Walter stated, does not guarantee that the

person who gets a certificate is able to perform everything in connection with his job. By citing the physician's diploma, the barber's license, etc., Mr Walter illustrated his point that certification is not a new thing, nor is it, he declared, a question of the public's right to insist upon it but rather a question of whether we want it or not. The speaker included both educational and personal qualities in summing up the standards for library efficiency and said "while the latter is hard to determine, it is extremely important," and "that any good scheme of certification will give a place to personality." Certification, Mr Walter continued, should be conducted by the unit generally responsible for library matters. The standards should be as high as possible and should consider facilities for professional training and improvement. It should recognize various types of library work and fix tests suited to them. Mr Walter concluded his remarks by saying, "This may not come in six months, two years or five," and "Certification should be a process of evolution instead of revolution."

It was a rather good answer that was given by Mr F. K. Walter to the inquiry that came in the discussion of his paper as to what in his judgment were the actual requirements that would enable one to be scheduled as a standard librarian. Mr Walter said a librarian should be well educated, should have good personality and a background of good experience. In other words, she should know what she ought to know, she should have sense enough to apply that knowledge advantageously and a chance to try it out to her own satisfaction.

William M. Hepburn, librarian, Purdue University, chairman of the Legislative committee, read the proposed certification bill, making comments upon it. A short discussion followed the presentation of the bill.

The Indiana historical association held a noon luncheon and many members of the I. L. A. and I. L. T. A. attended, delighted to have an oppor-

tunity of associating with this group, so interested in preserving Indiana history.

On Friday afternoon, time was given the associations to visit the Indianapolis branch libraries, followed by a tea at the John Herron Art Institute. The afternoon session of the Historical association was also open to the library organizations.

On Friday evening, the three associations assembled to hear Carl Sandburg give an account of "Lincoln biographies." The poet and biographer declared he had found "Abraham Lincoln the most companionable character in the world's history." In his characteristic style, the author discussed much of the Lincoln lore, both present and past and then read parts of Chapter 137 of his own life of Lincoln. He concluded the evening's program by reading from his own poetry and by singing a group of folk songs of the South.

At the business sessions of the two organizations on Saturday the certification bill, as read, was adopted by both associations. The newly elected officers are: President, William J. Hamilton, Gary; vice-president, Ella F. Corwin, Elkhart; secretary, Ruth Bean, Evansville; treasurer, Evangeline Lewis, Pendleton.

Following an instructive talk upon "Excavating prehistoric mounds in Indiana" by J. A. MacLean of Toledo, the I. L. A. and I. L. T. A. adjourned.

In the opinion of those attending the convention the social aspect was the outstanding item. Not alone the banquet and its program, which was so delightful, but the gathering together of groups here and there for the interchange of ideas and comments. The free discussion of the program and the reaction to the same, the publisher's displays, which brought out opinions of different books, these and other features, in addition to the program, made the conference one that will be remembered.

ETHEL G. BAKER  
Secretary

**Kansas**—The Kansas library association held its annual meeting at Parsons, November 3-5. It was the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting. One charter member, Miss Julia M. Walsh of Ottawa, was present. There were seven past presidents in attendance, and messages were sent by others.

Dr J. J. Claxton of Tulsa, Oklahoma, gave an inspiring address at the first session. Professor Charles Mathews, of the State Agricultural College, spoke on "The new novels of the last five or six years, especially those of the Middle-West"—a scholarly presentation of an interesting subject. Professor Wilson, of Teachers' College at Pittsburgh, at the banquet on Thursday evening, spoke earnestly of the lack of careful attention to our "mother tongue," and advised as to the selection of books suitable for young people's reading.

Earl N. Manchester, of the Watson library at Kansas State University, reported the wonderful Fiftieth Anniversary meeting of the A. L. A., bringing to their friends in the K. L. A. personal messages from Mr Julius Lucht and Mr Willis Kerr, now in Massachusetts and California.

The president, Mrs Roberta McKowan, librarian at Chanute, in her address, "The door of opportunity," emphasized the need of an organizer of libraries for the state, a matter that has been discussed and worked for, thru the years but not yet accomplished. The legislative committee will try again.

Round-tables were held for public libraries, school libraries and for trustees, each discussing its own special needs, including the general topic of vocational reading for school children with credits given by the teachers.

A map on the wall, prepared by the president, showed the location of all the libraries in the state. A single gold star marked the one county library, in Scott County.

The librarians present brought cards bearing pictures of their buildings and statistics as to income, number of readers and such matters. An exhibit was

made of these, and they are now on their way to visit each library wishing to see and compare.

The people of Parsons were most gracious hosts, the weather was perfect and the librarians dispersed with a feeling of congratulation for their hosts and for themselves.

The officers for 1927 are:

President, Miss Odella Nation, Pittsburg; vice-president, Mrs Bertha McMann, Kansas City, Kan.; secretary, Miss H. Lucy Nichols, Wellington; treasurer, Miss Katharine Terrill, Wichita. Lawrence was chosen as the place of meeting for 1927.

GRACE A. MEEKER  
Secretary

**New Mexico**—The New Mexico library association met at Santa Fé, November 6, Ella M. La Bar, chairman. Papers were read by: Wilma Shelton, librarian of the University of New Mexico, on "New books and pamphlets helpful to school librarians"; Margery Bedinger, librarian, State College, "Ways in which the teacher can make use of the library"; Barbara Phillips, head of English department, Albuquerque high school, "Uses of modern literature in the high school"; Sue E. Goree, librarian, Santa Fé public library, "Illustrated reprints of standard literature for school libraries."

Officers for 1926-27 were elected as follows:

Miss Sue E. Goree, Santa Fé, president; Mrs Dixon, Albuquerque public library, treasurer, and Miss Margery Bedinger, N. M. College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, secretary.

At a business meeting, a constitution was discussed, also the establishment of a publicity bureau, which should receive from designated reporters in different counties, news items in regard to libraries, these news items to be edited and sent to all papers in the state, as well as to the different libraries.

Plans were also discussed for a library survey of the state and the possibility of getting help from the Carnegie Endowment fund.

Much interest in libraries is evident thruout the state. The State Federation of women's clubs stressed library activity again and again, at its Carlsbad meeting, and the New Mexico library association, altho very recently organized, already has a membership of nearly 100, and every county in the state is represented.

MARGERY BEDINGER  
Secretary

**New York**—The New York library club met, November 18, under the direction of Anne Carroll Moore. The subject of the evening was "So children are people—a lively symposium." The points of view of the author, librarian, publisher and bookseller were represented in the talks given by Constance Lindsay Skinner, Frederic G. Melcher, Montrose Moses, Louise Seaman, Alfred Harcourt, Clara W. Hunt and Irita Van Doren. The Book Week exhibit in the children's room was open before and after the meeting.

**New York**—A meeting of the New York regional catalog group was held, November 27, with an attendance of 67. Among those present, 63 were members and Miss Donnelly of Simmons College was a guest.

The subject for discussion—Cataloging as it is and as it might be taught—was introduced by the chairman, Miss Anna M. Monrad, head cataloger of Yale.

Miss Margaret Jackson of Ridgewood, N. J., presented a series of questions for discussion: Should cataloging be taught so that it will stick like the multiplication tables for 10 or more years? Should all library school students be trained in the same way or trained in special lines of work? Should special courses be adapted for small libraries and large libraries? How far can large libraries train their own workers? Is it possible to divide the courses at the middle of the year and let the students specialize in the work for which they wish to prepare?

Miss Pratt of Yale said that cataloging in a large library is difficult and

an elementary course does not prepare for the work. Cataloging has been taught as a detached subject but it is closely connected in a large library with reference work and there should be provision made for reference cataloging in large libraries. Technique is not to be confused with accuracy which is an essential quality and the basis of sound scholarship.

Miss Sears of the H. W. Wilson company gave some specifications of what qualities an executive might like to find in his staff. A library school graduate should have: 1) A broad conception of his work, a general idea of what a catalog represents in a library; 2) a proper respect and enthusiasm for cataloging and 3) realization that she doesn't know it all. She called for a closer connection in the work between teachers of reference and teachers of cataloging. An advanced course in cataloging is not yet in existence and in libraries, cataloging and reference should go hand in hand.

Miss Rhodes of the School of Library Service at Columbia spoke of some of the methods which are being tried out in teaching cataloging; i. e., individual instruction, visual instruction and courses combining classification and cataloging. She referred to the confusion that might arise were a teacher of cataloging to try to follow the different kinds of instruction presented by previous speakers.

In the discussion that followed, Miss Prescott of Columbia said that cataloging in a university library was full of interest and educational value. Miss Craig asked to find in a library school graduate an open mind, a knowledge of reference tools and an imagination able to grasp the broader aspects of cataloging in its relation to the whole of the library.

Miss Donnelly disclaimed competence to take part in the discussion. She was not a teacher of cataloging but she told what they were attempting at Simmons College. The course there could only be elementary as but 100 hours are allowed. She believed



every student should take a course in cataloging. She was quite sure, referring to Miss Jackson's question, that knowledge of cataloging would stick for in every phase of handling books from ordering clear thru the process, the graduate made use of her cataloging. She thought it a physical impossibility to teach cataloging and classification in one course, but emphasized the fact that there should be close connection between the courses and the same books should be used in both.

In a paper on cataloging, Miss Margaret Mann said that the teaching of cataloging should begin in the study of books, their various applications and value. She emphasized the value of the preface to the cataloger and to the reader. College students should have respect for and should learn to use the catalog. She reaffirmed the belief that cataloging and classification should be taught together and that reference books suggested by the teacher of cataloging should be included in the course on reference books.

The meeting adjourned with everyone agreed that it had been most interesting and delightful.

KATHERINE D. HINMAN  
Secretary-treasurer

**Rhode Island**—One of the most stimulating meetings which the Rhode Island library association has offered was held in conjunction with the Institute of Instruction at the Commercial high school in Providence, November 29. Clarence E. Sherman, president of the association, introduced, as the first speaker, Mr George H. Tripp, librarian of the Public library of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Mr Tripp spoke on the "Romance of whaling," filling the audience at once with the joy and daring of the salty spray and tarred ropes and awakened an enthusiasm to read the books that he mentioned and to visit the historic spots which he knows so intimately.

Mrs Alice C. Gleeson, whose Colonial Rhode Island has just been published, took the second place on the program. Her subject was "Catching

up with our state history." Mrs Gleeson feels that civic pride is justifiable and that we must cling to our ideals making the libraries centers of such interest.

A paper entitled "Literary landmarks near home," written by Mr William E. Foster, brought the meeting to a close. Mr Foster, librarian of the Providence public library, made that building the center of a circle, with a radius of one sixteenth of a mile, within which he found memories rich with literary associations. Margaret Fuller, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William D. Howells and members of the famous Friday Evening club were some of the persons brought before us.

EDNA THAYER  
Recording secretary

As a result of conferences which have been held annually for three years, an Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux has been formed for the British Isles. The articles of incorporation state the object of the association to be "to facilitate the collection, treatment, and dissemination of information on science, commerce, public affairs, etc."

The prospectus states that in order to assure its establishment on an adequate basis, the association must have not less than 500 members by March, 1927. Membership is open to all interested bodies and a small subscription of £2:2 per annum has been fixed. Full information will be furnished on application to the Secretary, 38, Bloomsbury Square, London, W. C. 1.

#### Coming meetings

The usual tri-state Atlantic City meeting will be held at Atlantic City, N. J., March 11-12, 1927, with headquarters at the Hotel Chelsea. The American Library Institute will meet with the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association.

The annual meeting of the American Library Association for 1927 will be held in Toronto in the week of June 20.

### Books at Sea

The annual meeting of the A. M. M. L. A. was held at National Headquarters in New York, December 2. The meeting heard reports from the committees carrying on the association work in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, New Orleans, Seattle, Providence, Newport, Bar Harbor, N. E. Harbor and Buzzards Bay.

At luncheon, those who were interested, including 50 distinguished guests, listened to speeches from various persons who had been interested and helpful in the work.

Great progress in the work of the association was reported. There were about 1700 ships served and libraries placed in 170 of the most isolated life saving stations. Various guests connected with the Merchant Marine testified to the good work that is being done by the libraries judging by the results of the work. Mrs Howard told briefly of the progress during the past year.

Captain Griffith said that next to food and bodily raiment, nothing was more important to a sailor than the good reading matter which this association is placing before him. Before the American boy will be found at sea, the life must be made more attractive. There must be good quarters and good food and his mind must be kept alive thru good reading matter. Captain Griffith said that as a sailor, he wished to pay his highest respects to Mrs Howard who had carried on the work so efficiently and successfully.

Bert L. Todd, representing the engineers, said that he had drawn up three questions showing how the seamen appreciate the service and what they knew about A. M. M. L. A. and what criticism they had to offer. The investigation of the waterfront showed that the work of the library association dissipated a lot of dissatisfaction on ships, stopped quarreling, stopped men from going ashore at night. Mr Todd contrasted interestingly the present

situation with the old days when he, himself, had spent hours on a Norwegian newspaper trying to figure out what it meant in English. The World war has changed matters here as everywhere. A better class of men are in the service and they are just as hungry for books as they are for food. In many instances, the men call up several days before they sail to find out if a library has been put aboard ship, showing it is a necessary article. Something has been started now that can't possibly be turned down even if Mrs Howard and her associates wished to do so. While it might be true that on shore the seaman's mind is taken up with material things, at sea his mind seeks some way to spend his time and results show that the efforts of the association are much appreciated.

A splendid note of appreciation was offered by Fire Chief Kenlon, of New York City, who told of his own experience in the 14 years he spent at sea and how the few books he had were read over and over. He referred to the terrible loneliness of the weeks and weeks with no land in sight and having all those weary hours without anything to turn to. Library books on ships bring a sailor in contact with what is going on in the world, keeps him in touch with civilization, arouses his ambition and gives him a chance to be somebody.

### Eastern College Librarians

Extracts from the report made by Miss Dorothy A. Plum thru notes taken by students in the School of Library Service.

The fourteenth annual conference of Eastern college librarians was held at Columbia University on November 27.

The morning session, at which Miss Sabra Vought presided, opened with a brief introductory speech by Dr F. C. Hicks surveying the purpose, growth and informal nature of the organization, and with a word of greeting from Dr C. C. Williamson.

Professor Ernest J. Reece of the Columbia School of Library Service, in his summary of the literature relat-

ing to college and university libraries, showed what progress had been made in the past two years.<sup>1</sup>

Dr J. I. Wyer called attention to a recent publication of the New York state library, "A bibliography of American college library administration, 1899-1926," submitted for graduation by Dorothy A. Plum, New York State library school.

Charles B. Shaw, of North Carolina College for Women, outlined a proposed course of study for a year's advanced work in college and university library administration. He emphasized the two-fold sphere of the librarian as a scholar and research worker as well as administrator. Entrance requirements included four years of college with one year advanced graduate study at a properly organized library school, one year's experience in an approved library after the first year of library school, 32 points and the preparation of a bibliography or thesis to be required for the degree.

Mr Shaw quoted from Dean Russell's "Trend of American education" in stating that a professional school should set up three definite ends—examination of facts for a student at the beginning of his career, encouragement of creative effort and preparation to meet colleagues on a scholarly basis.

Miss Borden of Vassar College agreed with Mr Shaw's emphasis on the librarian as scholar as well as executive. She felt that his course was not sufficiently advanced. The program should be adjusted to the needs of the students with allowance for selection and intensive study. She advised a three hour course in administration, bibliography of separate fields, one hour thruout the year, and fine printing, one hour.

Miss Donnelly of Simmons thot the number of courses was too great, making the program fragmentary. She suggested fewer selective courses with greater flexibility of time spent on each

and proposed two types of program for two types of mind: 1) For those desiring administrative work; 2) For those preparing for the headship of departments in large libraries. She said "adequate craftsmanship means command of tools for expression in the special medium and is, therefore, more than technical skill."

Dr Williamson objected to the word skill as applied to administration. Mr Van Hoesen thot it an error to limit courses of graduate study to one year. The question was not what courses should be required but what courses ought to be available and how much time such courses would take. Mr Reece thot two points in Mr Shaw's program were impracticable: 1) The extensive program of field work and 2) the bibliography symposium. Graduate standard of the courses proposed was questioned by Mr Gerould of Princeton who felt them to be largely vocational. Dr Bishop of the University of Michigan pointed out that 12 rather than 15 hours is the requirement in the course at Michigan. Students must have a department of specialization with cognate work in other departments.

Mr Andrew Keogh of Yale University told of the Commonwealth Fund's investigation of university and college libraries. The investigation is still under the direction of the Commonwealth Fund but is now financed by the Carnegie Corporation. Dr Capen, University of Buffalo, the director, Dr Works of Cornell, his associate, are assisted by Messrs Bishop, Keogh, Mitchell, Root and Walter. University libraries are divided by type, each type chosen for intensive study. Among those included in the study are: Columbia, Yale, Brown, Oberlin, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Leland Stanford, Rutgers and Vassar. Mr Keogh read the list of topics covered and discussed the unsolved problems of the college library. It is hoped that later the report will be published.

At the afternoon session, Dr Harry L. Koopman presided. Recent plans

<sup>1</sup> The paper was prepared with the assistance of a committee of students from the School of Library Service, of which Miss Margaret Roys of the Columbia University library was chairman.

for library buildings were discussed—plans for Dartmouth College library by Nathaniel Goodrich; Yale library, Mr Keogh; library of the University of Rochester, Mr Gilchrist; University of Tokio library, Mr Gerould; College of the City of New York, Mr Newton.

Mr William C. Lane of Harvard outlined a plan for inter-library coöperation in providing scientific material. He suggested contributions toward a general fund for the purchase of scientific material to be kept in a central depository with regional limitations.

William Corbin of the Smithsonian Institution approved heartily of the plan and suggested four or five regional centers. He favored semi-permanent scientific loans of material. The Smithsonian Institution has built up by gift and exchange a large library of scientific research which should be made available.

Vernon L. Kellogg spoke on the relations of the National Research Council, libraries and scientific literature. He pointed out the various ways in which the National Council could be helpful in furnishing material and in preparing bibliographies. Coöperation between biologists and libraries was stressed by Prof C. E. McClung, director of the biological laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania. He spoke of the development of biological abstracts which contain more than 40,000 titles from 7000 or more journals.

Mr H. M. Lydenberg of the New York public library reported on the national union list of serials. This has developed so far that further subscriptions have been asked. Provisional editions are down to the end of the alphabet and plans for printing are being made. Miss Winifred Gregory, in charge of the work, told of the difficulties of compilation and editing and asked for suggestions so that the completed work may be of the greatest usefulness.

It was reported that the *Bibliothèque Nationale* will continue its catalog in a provisional edition by photographing the slips which are in preparation for

the printed edition. The authors from L to Z and all anonymous works will be reproduced by photostat. The disadvantage of the plan is that the slips will be in classes rather than in alphabetical arrangement but the prospect of having the completed work available is a compensation.

Carl L. Cannon of the New York library, speaking on thin paper editions, asked that librarians attempt to stem the tide of thin paper reference books which are being put upon the market. He said that publishers do not realize that thin paper is impractical. Foreign publishers are still issuing encyclopedias in regular weight paper. Libraries are important factors in the sale of reference books and so might influence publishers. The cost of production on standard paper is not prohibitive. He recommended the appointment of a committee to consider specifications for book materials for reference use and suggested that this committee enter into negotiations with the publishers for the production of reference books on standard paper. This was voted and such a committee will be appointed.

#### Résumé of Findings

The Commission on the Library and Adult Education has devoted two years to a study and analysis of the library aspects of adult education. It has been impressed by the number of adult activities of an educational nature, and by the growing demand for an understanding of modern life. It recognizes as an outstanding deficiency in all forms of adult educational work the fact that books of suitable kind are in few instances supplied in numbers adequate for successful study. It believes that this supply of books, whether for classes or for independent study, is primarily a library obligation.

The Commission is of the opinion that the library's contribution to adult education will resolve itself into three major activities.

First of all, and on its own responsibility, the library owes consulting and



advisory service, supplemented by suitable books, to those who wish to pursue their studies alone, rather than in organized groups or classes. Such a service, which can function effectively only through a specially trained and well-educated personnel, will offer advice in the choice of books, and will assist students through the preparation of reading courses adapted to their age, education, taste, and previous experience. This is a contribution which the library is peculiarly fitted to render.

In the second place, there is the obligation to furnish complete and reliable information concerning local opportunities for adult education available outside the library. Persons desiring class work in any particular subject, stimulus from discussion groups or lecture courses, cultural development through opportunities obtainable in the local art museum or elsewhere, should naturally turn to the public library for information, descriptive circulars, or trustworthy advice.

Thirdly, the library should recognize as a fundamental duty the supplying of books and other printed material for adult education activities maintained by other organizations. There has as yet been no definite recognition, either by the library or by the agencies offering educational classes for adults, of the need of an ample book supply for group study. Owing to the rapidly widening interests, and to the complexities of present-day adult life, this adequate book supply for students of maturer age may be even more important than for younger scholars in full-time schools.

The Commission's investigations have resulted in certain other definite convictions that are of sufficient importance to be recorded here. The first is, that before the library, or any other agency, can hope to meet the demand for wider educational opportunities, and before the desire for such opportunities can be properly awakened, certain weaknesses in our present educational methods must be remedied. To this end librarians, educators—all interested in the spread of knowledge through

books—must combine their efforts. Greater attention must be given to methods by which interest in books and reading will be aroused among boys and girls. Only to the extent that this is achieved will permanent and desirable reading habits be developed. As long as books are looked upon merely as classroom tools, they will not be accepted as friendly guides in the solution of life's problems, or as sources of pleasure and culture.

The Commission is further convinced that there is another great need in the field of books themselves. It is the testimony of those engaged in educational work with adults, that for the majority of their students the right books are not at present available. Educators, authors and publishers must unite in the production of "humanized," readable books, especially adapted to adults who have lost the reading habit, or in whom it has to be developed or acquired.

A further problem is one which must be solved primarily by librarians, tho it concerns all interested in providing books for adult students. Until the small and poorly supported library, and likewise the isolated reader far from any source of book supply, can draw freely upon some central agency for books and study material many of the most promising types of adult education will be available only for the fortunate few who have access to well stocked libraries. The mere statement of this difficulty suggests its solution. Thruout all states and provinces there must be complete coordination of library adult education service, and central lending collections more adequate than those now existing.

Reprinted from a reprint from *Libraries and Adult Education*, a report by the Commission on the Library and Adult Education of the American Library Association.

According to the A. L. A. reports, county library campaigns are under way in New Jersey, Minnesota, Louisiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina. Arkansas and North Dakota are working for county library

laws.

### Interesting Things in Print

The *Technical Book Review Index*, issued by the technology department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, for April-June is now available.

An article in the *Christmas Bookman* by James Harvey Robinson—Ever Learning—has been issued in reprints which may be obtained free from the *Bookman*, 244 Madison Avenue, New York. It is distinctly of interest to librarians.

The address, Medical periodicals from the library standpoint, by Charles Frankenberger, librarian, Medical society of the County of Kings, Brooklyn, has been reprinted from the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, August, 1926, and may be had from the author.

The official publication of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, *Oklahoma*, vol. 10, no. 34, has an exceedingly suggestive and informative article on the public library system of Oklahoma City as it serves the various parts and interests in that thriving municipality.

*Agricultural Library Notes* for October contains the proceedings of the Agricultural library section meeting at Atlantic City and, in addition, interesting material relative to agricultural libraries with the usual lists of periodicals and selected lists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A description of library service in rural districts under the title "The need for rural libraries" by Kenyon L. Butterfield, president of the Michigan Agricultural College and of the American Country Life association, is to be had in reprint from *Rural America*, November, 1926.

A selection of the papers given at the meetings of the Southeastern library association at Signal Mountain, Tennessee, April 22-24, 1926, has been issued in pamphlet form. A complete presentation of the proceedings is not attempted since some of the papers have already appeared in print. For

the most part, the selection in the pamphlet has to do with library service in the South.

An interesting and doubtless a helpful handbook for Parent-Teacher associations is issued by the publishers of *Children*, 353 Fourth Avenue, New York City, under the title *Group study for parents*. The outline covered is: 1) Best methods of organization; 2) Interesting programs for meetings; 3) Recommended books on child study.

The *Lexington Herald*, November 14, presented an interesting "History of the Lexington public library" on the occasion of the institute's celebrating its one hundred and thirty-first anniversary. The article is illustrated showing the six different homes which this effective library has occupied in its service to the city of Lexington since its founding in 1795.

The return from sales of publications of the Department of the Interior indicates a large increase. The largest receipt was from the Geological Survey which realized from 18,229 publications and 612,016 maps. The Secretary of the Interior office sold 4078 publications; the Bureau of Education, 564,172; Indian office, 1345; General Land office, 3389; Pension office, 98; Bureau of Reclamation, 166,718; National Park Survey, 12,545.

The report of awards at the Sesquicentennial carries the interesting statement that for the first time an international jury of awards has given highest honors to an American encyclopedia. The instance of this was the medal of honor awarded to Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia which was on display at the Sesquicentennial exhibition at Philadelphia. The work was rated the highest of all children's reference books by the Supreme International jury of awards.

This work is now in its eighth edition. An edition for England also has been issued where such changes as were imperative by the difference in locality have been made. An Italian translation has just been printed.

Librarians and many others will give welcome to the Bureau of Education *Bulletin* No. 9 which is *Statistics of Public, Society and School Libraries*. These are the first library statistics that have appeared since 1918.

In looking at some of the statistics given, one can but regret that those reporting to the Bureau of Education were not more definite, more up-to-date and more accurate in their statements. Judging the unknown by the known, there is still much to be done on a report of this kind before it reaches the standard that should be set for such a publication. Even so, the *Bulletin* has much value and perhaps in time will come to be a thoroly reliable document. Its greatest value, perhaps, lies in lists of libraries in the United States. A report of it says it was necessary to send two and many more requests before replies could be obtained.

An article in the November number of *American Speech* on Library language by Nellie J. Compton of the University of Nebraska will doubtless be very useful, not alone in the hands of the layman. It is something with which librarians should provide themselves. The various titles which have in a way been originated by library workers are defined and an explanation of terms is given that would prove useful every day in any kind of library. One frequently hears other titles given to various phases of library work and until now there has been no definite place where the library terms are collected in such a comprehensive fashion. "Library tickets," "library patrons," and the like are terms taken over from other callings and have no place in the phraseology of library work.

Those in training classes and in libraries not possessing "education for librarianship" will find Miss Compton's article a mine of information on library language. The article has been issued in reprint and doubtless is obtainable from *American Speech*.

Wonder Tales from Windmill Lands is the second volume in a delightful

group of books which Frances Jenkins Olcott is to do in an Around the World series, the first of which was the charming group of stories called Wonder Tales from China Seas. (See 31:418.)

Wonder Tales from Windmill Lands—the title is fascinating! The book jacket in itself is enticing! Windmills, cows, churches, pulpits, kiddies, ships, shoes, carts, caps, cans, bells, babies, flowers, umbrellas, skates, people of all kinds—indeed, the list is too long to put it all in!—in beautiful colors, soft colors on a light cream background yielding the most entrancing hour to see who can find the most in the least time! The stories are of Holland origin which of itself gives the quaint, clear, rather joyous atmosphere which loses none of its interest and beauty in Miss Olcott's work of turning the stories into good English for young children. This is a most delightful book and children will be glad to see, hear and read its contents.

No. 4 of the series *Information Bulletin* issued by the Special libraries association is one that would be of value in every reference library, large or small, in the country, since its subject "Illumination" is universal. It contains 24 pages of bibliography on the subject of illumination compiled by a committee from the technological group of the S. L. A., all of whom are connected with corporations dealing with the subject. Members of the committee are: E. Mae Taylor, chairman, Philadelphia Electric Company; Francis E. Cady, National Lamp Works of General Electric Company, Cleveland; Josephine Greenwood, New York Edison Company and Consolidated Gas Company; George W. Lee, Stone & Webster, Boston; Edith L. Mattson, Commonwealth Edison Company, Chicago; Alma C. Mitchill, Public Service Company of New Jersey, Newark; Mrs Jennie Lee Schram, Illinois Power and Light Corporation, Chicago; Rose L. Vormelker, White Motor Company, Cleveland.

There are nearly 50 bibliographies covering every phase of lighting.

### Library Schools

The announcement for the School of librarianship to be undertaken at the University of California, has been issued. It gives an explanation of the course, expenses, preliminary experience and entrance requirements and the curricula.

#### Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh

The Christmas vacation began December 18. Class work is resumed on January 3. Examinations begin on January 26 and the new semester starts on February 2.

In order to help the students in their selection of their courses for the second semester, practical work assignments have been arranged so that students may have an opportunity to observe the particular type of work which they are considering.

The course in Administration of Small Libraries, given by Harriet D. McCarty, librarian of the Pennsylvania College for Women, has just been completed.

Miss Heloise Brainard, Educational director of the Pan-American Union, was a recent visitor at the school.

The class of 1927 has elected the following officers:

President, Josephine Johnson; vice-president, Marcella Strain; secretary, Margaret Allen; treasurer, Lena Albert.

#### New Appointments

Julia Staniland, '24, part-time assistant, University of Pittsburgh library.

Vera Tracy, '26, assistant librarian, Public library, Miami, Florida.

Eunice Russell Clarke, '24, part-time assistant, Children's department, Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Dorothy C. Hayes, '20, high-school librarian, Chicago, Ill.

The Carnegie library of Pittsburgh and the Carnegie library school are happy to announce the return of their director, John H. Leete. Mr Leete has regained his health and resumed his work both in the library and in the library school on December 1.

#### Special courses in children's work

The Carnegie library school, Pittsburgh, as usual, will offer specialized

courses in library work with children and library work with schools, during the second semester. These courses are open to graduates of other library schools who wish to specialize in either of these fields. Supplemented practical work will be given in children's rooms and school or college libraries, depending upon the course chosen. The course in library work with schools is open only to college graduates. Librarians interested may secure detailed information by writing to the school. Application should be made promptly as only a limited number can be accepted.

NINA C. BROTHERTON

#### Columbia University

The first session of the school will end with the mid-year examinations, January 19-27. The program for the Spring session will offer in addition to nine hours of required work in Cataloging, Bibliography, Reference, History of libraries and Use of books and libraries, six hours of electives to be selected from the following courses—Public libraries, College and University libraries, Special libraries, School libraries, Work with children and Special problems in cataloging. In addition to the resident faculty, the school will have five visiting instructors—Linda H. Morley, librarian, Industrial Relations Counsellors, Inc.; Mildred Pope, librarian of Girard College; Leonore St. John Power, in charge of Work with children, New York public library; Prof A. S. Root of Oberlin college, and Dr J. I. Wyer of the New York state library.

Detailed announcements of the school for 1927-28 are in press and will be ready for distribution in February.

Recent lecturers were Miss Lucille Goldthwaite, who spoke on Libraries for the blind, D. N. Handy, Introduction to special libraries, Mildred Pope, Introduction to school libraries and Mrs May Lamberton Becker who reviewed some of the outstanding fiction of the season.

The latest gifts to the school are two much appreciated additions to the



book collection. Harriet R. Peck, president of the New York State Library School association, has given a complete set of the *Library Journal*, which belonged to her father, A. L. Peck, for many years librarian of the Public library of Gloversville, N. Y. Max Meisel, B. L. S., N. Y., '16, has sent the second volume, just published, of his *Bibliography on American natural history*. The first volume, published in the fall of 1924, was awarded the first Eunice Rockwood Oberly memorial prize for the best original bibliography in the field of agriculture or the natural sciences.

Kate Feuille, N. Y. P. L., '18-19, was married to René Granger, December 8, 1926. Mr and Mrs Granger will be at home after January 1 at Bogotá, Colombia, South America.

Jessie R. Bowes, N. Y. P. L., '17-18, has just completed a five months' service at the League of Nations library, Geneva, Switzerland.

EDNA M. SANDERSON  
Assistant to the Director

#### Drexel Institute

In connection with the course in administration, the class, accompanied by Miss Law and Miss Bagley, visited a variety of libraries—chosen to illustrate different types of library work. The library of the Pennsylvania historical society, of the University of Pennsylvania, the Kingsessing branch of the Free library of Philadelphia, the Girard College library, offered much of interest to the students and helped them to visualize something of the routine of the work which they are to study in detail. The usual visits were paid to the bookshops, various publishing houses, and to the museums in which Philadelphia is so rich.

The class attended the stated meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and heard the guest of the evening, Dr William E. Lingelbach, lecture on "Paradoxes of post-war Europe." Edward D. McDonald, professor of English at Drexel, lectured to the class on "Social problems in the modern drama." Miss Flora Roberts, librarian

of the Public library of Kalamazoo, Michigan, spoke on "The administration of the public library."

The local alumni of the Drexel Library School association gave a tea to introduce the members of the class to the local librarians.

ANNE W. HOWLAND  
Director

#### Los Angeles public library

Dr Guppy's visit to Los Angeles happily coincided with the students' study of manuscripts and incunabula. His informal account of the Aldines in the John Rylands library was doubly interesting. Other lectures during the month on the history of books were given by Professor Joseph Pijoan of Pomona college on Manuscripts in the Vatican and by H. R. Mead and R. O. Schad of the Huntington library, who spoke on Incunabula and on Modern presses. The latter lecture was supplemented by the exhibit of the American Institute of Graphic Arts arranged by the library school.

Lectures by specialists on different types of periodicals accompanied the study of special periodical indexes. Frances Richardson discussed art periodicals, Mary Alice Boyd, scientific, and George E. Chase, technical periodicals.

MARION HORTON

#### Paris library school

The Paris library school has 30 students enrolled. Twelve are French, seven Norwegian, two American, two Russian, two German, one Czech, one Dane, and one Palestinian. Many of them have had library experience.

Among the recent visitors to the Paris library school were five of the European delegates to the Atlantic City A. L. A. meeting.

#### Pratt Institute

The library and school are both rejoicing that for the rest of this year at least, Miss Rachel Sedeyn '22, until recently librarian of Brussels University, will be a member of the faculty and staff. A vacancy on the reference staff that carries with it faculty rank, occurred here just at the time that a

reorganization of the work of the University library, effected during her absence in this country, made her resignation inevitable.

While we regret that Belgium has lost Miss Sedeyn's services, we are sure that the work she has done there during the past four years, especially the training of librarians thru the School of Social Service, will persist and her influence continue in ever-widening circles. However, Belgium's loss is our gain and that of the profession in this country.

The class greatly enjoyed a talk from Mr R. R. Bowker on women librarians of the last 50 years.

Two lectures on story-telling, preliminary to the elective course to be offered next term, were given by Mary Gould Davis of the New York public library. Miss Davis is unusually effective both as an expositor and exponent of this most ancient of arts, and so inspired the class that a larger number have applied for the course than ever before.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE  
Vice-director

#### Western Reserve University

Both theory and practice are combined in the course on Lending systems, with class work based on Miss Flexner's textbook and practical assignments in the Cleveland Public Library branches under the supervision of Miss Sargeant Smith.

Miss Freeman gave to the students November 18 the talk given by her in Philadelphia at the Sesquicentennial during the A. L. A. conference on What the public wants.

The faculty, students and invited guests greatly appreciated the address given by Dr Henry Guppy, librarian of the John Rylands library, Manchester, England, November 19, on "Stepping stones to the art of typography," illustrated with choice lantern slides from the John Rylands collection. It was a great pleasure to the friends and admirers of Dr Guppy to have this final visit before his departure for England.

An unusual pleasure was afforded the students, November 29, in a talk by the author, Floyd Dell, on "Present-day fiction and poetry." Another visitor the following day was Dr Frank P. Hill, librarian of the Brooklyn public library, who spoke on "Library work with children."

The course of lectures on Modern tendencies in education has been continued by prominent principals and directors connected with Cleveland schools of various kinds.

#### Alumni changes

Sarah A. Thomas, '10, is now the county librarian at Cape May, N. J.

Alice W. Curtis, '16, has become librarian of the Public library, Bradenton, Florida.

Jane Kuhns Vanderpool '16, is now librarian of U. S. Veteran's hospital, No. 85, Walla Walla, Wash.

Marjorie E. Kearney, '20, is on the staff of the Los Angeles public library.

Barbara Brumbaugh, '23, has been added to the staff of the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore, as Readers' assistant.

Katherine E. Wilder, '25, has been elected librarian of the Public library, Medina, Ohio.

Cora M. Beatty, '26, is head of the training class of the Louisville public library.

ALICE S. TYLER  
Dean

#### Simmons College

Within the past year Simmons college has been admitted, first, to the American Association of University Women, and more recently, to the Association of American Universities, which has been a satisfaction to the School of library science, as well as to the college in general.

The most recent event of this "fortunate year" has been the grant by the Carnegie Corporation of \$3000 for the year 1926-27, in which we recognize also the recommendation of the American Library Association.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY  
Director

The world is turning from the novels of gin and gender to the stories of the sea—its wealth of incident, its thrills of adventure and its freshness of atmosphere.—Locke.

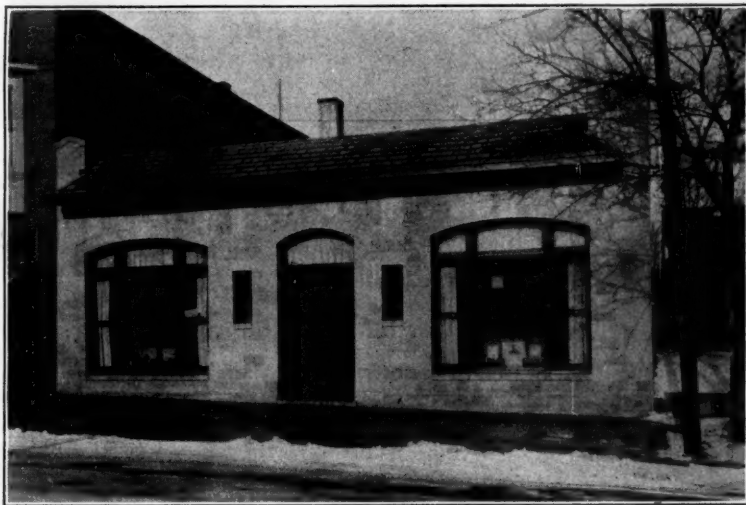
### A Library Branch of Distinction

A low white stone building with a roof tiled in dull red—a building that somehow hints of Hawaiian beaches or Californian breezes—stands at the four busy, prosaic corners where the people of a city residence district gather for daily shopping.

Here among brick buildings, the flare of advertisements, and the clang of street cars, the building is an anomaly. It catches the eye of the passer-by; and the bright posters in the window invite him to enter.

marine in oils, and a copy of Sargent's *King Lear*. A ship model with red sails and spars adds a splash of color to one corner; and a bowl flaunts the scarlet pods of the Chinese lantern in another.

If the visitor should be a librarian, he would turn from the first impression of color harmony to a survey of the professional aspects of the room. He would note its size, approximately 45 by 60 feet, and that it is divided into adult and juvenile sections by the main desk and a long row of low



Capitol Hill branch library, Des Moines

Within, a harmony of cream and brown greets him. Cream-colored walls and cream-colored drapes at the arched windows blend with the brown of the woodwork and the cool green of the floor. Bulletin boards of green burlap carry out the color scheme while announcing what new books are offered by the library—for of course it is one—the newly-built Capitol Hill branch of the Des Moines public library.

The soft color of the background is brightened by the reds and blues of books that line the shelves about the room, two beautiful Cizek prints of gayly-dressed children, the blues of a

shelves running down the center of the room. He would note the low tables, small chairs, racks of picture books, and the bright children's posters on one side; and on the other the rows of larger tables and chairs, the taller shelves, and the displays of recent books.

The librarian would be drawn to the desk, built in the form of a hollow square, 10 by 8 feet, and modelled after one in the Buder branch of the Saint Louis public library. Two sides of the desk serve for the return of books and the routine of charging and discharging. A book trough along the side where patrons return their books

makes an excellent display space. Opposite this stands the card catalog and a book truck. The fourth side of the desk forms a convenient working place.

Two benches that serve a triple purpose are an interesting feature. Each is placed before one of the low, broad windows that face directly upon the sidewalk. They are low enough so that the smallest tot may scramble upon one to look at a Mother Goose picture book, but with backs high

Other space has been utilized as carefully as this. The two bulletin boards on the walls have been placed directly over the steam radiators. These are covered by an asbestos lined shelf which displays the books to which the poster on the bulletin board above calls attention.

Two small rooms open from the farther end of the main room. One of these serves as a staff room; the other is for the use of the community. A boy's club that conducts its meetings with more zeal than decorum may spend a part of one



Interior of Capitol Hill branch

enough so that no youngster may, in one of those *melées* that occur in the best-regulated children's rooms, suddenly bring a subduing crash and jingle upon the noisy group, and the finger of disgrace to bear upon himself.

Thus, the benches serve the double purpose of the conventional one, and that of protection for the low windows. But ingenious planning has made possible a third use—that of utilizing the high backs for a bulletin board for passersby. The backs are removable so that posters may be attached without difficulty. The broad window sills in front of the boards form an excellent place for the display of various exhibits.

afternoon in this comparatively sound-proof retreat; the following day it may serve a small club of their mothers.

The Capitol Hill branch library is exceptionally well situated at the heart of a little nucleus of stores in a residence district. Ten schools are within walking distance, and many of the pupils are regular patrons. Under these conditions, the demands upon the branch library established there five years ago increased until expansion became imperative, and the new building was built.

Grocer C. G. Pickett with the welfare of the community at heart, agreed to construct the building according to the plans of the librarian and to lease it for 10 years FLOY DAVIS LAIR



## Department of School Libraries

*We get no good by being ungenerous, even to a book, and calculating profits,—so much help by so much reading.—Mrs Browning.*

### Books for Boys<sup>1</sup>

Arnold Mulder, author and editor, Holland, Michigan

I have a well defined feeling that books for boys are in large measure an invention of the devil and that it would be entirely possible for the world to get along without them. I dare say that, as usual, I am all wrong in this but as that idea is my only excuse for appearing on this program at all, I shall have to make the most of it. A year or two ago, I developed this thot in a "Library adventure" and later William Lyon Phelps wrote me that those were exactly his sentiments, so that I have at least one accomplice.

To illustrate: Scores, perhaps hundreds of editions, of Robinson Crusoe have been printed in words of one and two syllables as a book for boys. Scores of millions of boys the world over have read the great Defoe classic in that form and have never read Defoe in the original, as it were. They never have the impulse to do so because they have already read the book, as they think. In reality, they never get to read the real Robinson Crusoe to the end of their lives. Perhaps this is not important, but if not, then it is never important to read the great books in the world's literature and to be touched at first hand by their civilizing influence.

I believe that there is hardly a boy of average intelligence who could not enjoy and appreciate Robinson Crusoe as Defoe wrote it. Instead the boy is given an imitation when the real thing would be much better for him. No boys' edition can reproduce the absolute sense of reality which makes Robinson Crusoe one of the truly great books in the world's literature. The main outlines of the story are given,

the drama of the book is reproduced to some extent, but it is hard to see how the boy reading it can get out of it that ultimate thrill that the mysterious power of Defoe's genius has put into the book. And it seems to me that inducing in a boy the exaltation that only great literature can give is worth trying for. If boys' editions of the world's great classics make a boy miss that, there seems to be some color for my statement that boys' books are in some measure at least an invention of the devil.

What is true of Robinson Crusoe is in some degree also true of such a book as Gulliver's Travels. I should like to try an experiment on a representative audience of men to find out how many of them have ever read Gulliver's Travels. Perhaps most of them would imagine that they had, but perhaps also it would soon be discovered that they had not read it at all but had read merely an imitation of it—Gulliver's Travels with most of Dean Swift left out. And not having read it, they will probably never read it. I used to think that I was going to read all the classics when I should once have left college, but during the 16 years that I have been out of college I have come to have the feeling that what I missed during boyhood and college is gone forever, like water that has gone over a dam—there is no time. If I had not been lucky enough to read the real Gulliver's Travels as a boy, the chances are that I would not have re-read it recently.

And my whole point is that thousands of people, millions of them, miss something precious and important by never in their lives reading books of that general kind, the great classics. And they never read them because they have been encouraged as boys to read imitations of them on the supposition that their boys' minds are not

<sup>1</sup>Paper presented for discussion at the annual conference on children's reading, Grand Rapids, May 1, 1926.

strong enough to read the original. Again, as in the case of Robinson Crusoe, I believe that any average boy could enjoy and appreciate Gulliver's Travels. He would not grasp the satire of the book but he would get the thrill that comes from reading supremely great literature.

And I want to go a step further, altho I realize fully that I am on dangerous ground. Not only does it seem a pity to me that the great classics that could serve as boys' books just as they are—books like Crusoe and Gulliver and others of that general type—are slaughtered and tempered to what some adult thinks is the capacity of the boy mind, but it even appears somewhat unfortunate to me that so many books for boys are being written and published. Or if not exactly unfortunate, at least there is a chance that they cause many bright boys to miss great books that are the outpourings of really vital minds while they waste their time on books that are only the fruit of mediocre minds.

To take another concrete illustration: Clarence Buddington Kelland of Michigan is, I am told, a very successful writer of books for boys. Never having read one of them I have no opinion on the subject, and even if I had, my opinion might be worth still less. But those books of his for adult readers that I have read have convinced me that he is not possessed of a vital mind, not in the sense in which Defoe or Dean Swift were possessed of vital minds. This is not necessarily anything against him; the Lord or evolution or whatever it was that formed him, made him that way. His books are readable enough and it is not exactly a disgrace not to be a Daniel Defoe. The point is that he is a second rater or a third rater or perhaps even a fourth rater. But thousands upon thousands of boys who are capable of appreciating a genuinely vital writer are encouraged to read this writer of successful books for boys, and while doing the one they cannot be doing the other. I am wondering if we are not deliberately encouraging

the boys of our generation to keep clear of the great books and to spend their time on second-rate books that come from second-rate minds.

But better that than not to have read at all is invariably the answer to such a suggestion. It is assumed that most normal boys would not read at all if books were not carefully graduated to the supposed calibre of their immature minds. When I make a plea to encourage boys to read the great books instead of stuffing their minds with second-raters the answer is: "You don't know boys. That would be all right for a particularly bright boy here and there but in the case of most boys the books for boys are an absolute necessity. Better give them a taste for reading *via* the boys' books, even if they are not written by the world's great geniuses, than to have them reach maturity without any taste for reading at all."

And I am not foolish enough to try to refute this argument but I wish to make the point that there is another side to it. I am wondering how often the literary taste of boys who have good minds is vitiated by the fact that all boys in the lump are encouraged to read boys' books. What would have happened to Lincoln if as a boy his mind had been stuffed with an unlimited number of Mark Tidd books? He might have survived it, but I am wondering whether the music of the Second Inaugural address is not due in some small degree at least to the fact that very early in his boyhood he was forced by poverty to limit his reading to the King James Bible, Shakespeare and a few others—all genuinely great literature, with the exception of Parson Weems' Life of Washington. Perhaps it is entirely out of place at a meeting in a public library, but I wish to venture the suggestion that it may not be an unmixed blessing that the boys of today have access to an unlimited supply of books of every degree of excellence and trashiness.

I wonder how many boys who live within walking distance of a splendid library like this one ever in their lives

know what it is to hunger and thirst for books. And just as in the matter of eating it is not good to starve, neither is it good never to be hungry. The person who has never been hungry has missed something. The boy who has never been ravenously hungry for books has missed something. Perhaps he has gained more than he has missed by having his every desire for reading matter instantly gratified, but I am not at all certain.

Pardon a personal allusion—the only way I have of measuring the boy mind is to go back to my own boyhood. Brought up on a farm many miles from a library, I never saw a library card until I entered high school. But by that time I had read *Paradise Lost*, a great many of the plays of Shakespeare. *Vanity Fair*, two or three of Dickens (that I discovered one day in a one-volume edition in the home of a friend and that I lugged two miles afoot hugging it to me like a great and precious prize), and a number of other books of that nature—nearly all of them, I came to realize later, classics. I did not know that then and I read them for the pure joy of it. Moreover, in several cases I laboriously saved my pennies to buy such books. There was at that time in Chicago a firm called the Book Supply Company that sent out a yearly catalog, much in the manner of Sears, Roebuck. And I shall never forget the thrill of paging thru that catalog. It is something in a drab world to have had that thrill—perhaps the only thing today that has power to give me a thrill of equal intensity is the idea of some day making a trip to Europe.

Of course I did not understand half of what I was reading when the books finally came in their cheap binding that I sent for to the Book Supply Company. But I am convinced that at least a little of it stayed with me and that I was better employed than if I had been reading boys' books that were supposed to be graduated to my immature mind. I think we often underestimate the intellectual capacity of the boy's mind.

Lowell says somewhere in one of his poems, "With our faint heart the mountain strives," and that is what I have in mind in my advocacy of encouraging boys to read the classics even tho they understand them only imperfectly. There is a civilizing power in contact with the great minds of the past and just as our faint hearts grow strong by striving with the strength of the eternal mountains, so the hearts and minds of boys grow strong in striving with the great books, the books that are mountain peaks in the world's literature.

Take the Bible as an example. I don't care whether you regard the Bible as the inspired word of God or not—that is entirely irrelevant in this connection. Both fundamentalists and modernists agree that the Bible contains some of the most sublime literature that has ever been conceived by the mind of man. That literature is one of the intellectual mountains with which it is worth while for faint hearts to strive.

But what is usually done? I know of a great many cases of mothers and fathers buying expensive sets of Bible stories for their children, sets that they can hardly afford. They purchase wishy-washy imitations of the great books of the Bible, stories that are supposed to be adapted to the boy mind. As you all know, even Hendrik Willem Van Loon last year fell a victim to this delusion that the great literature of the Bible is too much for the mental capacity of Hans and Gretchen and that therefore he had to rewrite the story of the Bible. The horrible failure he made of it ought to be warning sufficient that great literature should be tampered with as little as possible.

Ever since the days of King James and almost up to our own days, boys and girls of English and American parents have been fed on the noble literature of that version. Undoubtedly a great deal of it went over their heads, but what of it? Their minds were in vital touch with greatness instead of with a mere imitation of great-

ness. Most of the great writers of English literature have acknowledged their debt to that early contact with a literature of transcending greatness. The contact was induced by moral and ethical considerations, but incidentally the intellectual and aesthetic fruit of it was not wanting.

And that is what happened in the case of contact with any piece of great literature. It civilizes, it builds character, it feeds the imagination. My plea is always to encourage boys in every way possible to read the great books, regardless of whether they are entirely suited to his years or not.

I am not foolish enough to advocate that all boys' books shall be destroyed and that no more boys' books be published. We live in an era of books for boys and books for girls and it is impossible to move the clock backward. I agree that it is much better for boys and girls to read the books by second or third raters under the head of boys' and girls' books than not to read at all. The system is very helpful no doubt and makes for a nation of readers. It would be undemocratic to insist that the reading of the masses of boys and girls who are without a spark of intellectual vitality shall be regulated by the needs of the comparatively few who can profit by contact with the great minds of the past and present. Roughly speaking, the world exists for the vast majority and many may need the graduated volumes, because if they did not get them they would refuse to read at all or be incapable of getting any mental sustenance from the great books that were put before them. I am not advocating to cram down the mental throats of boys intellectual food that they cannot digest.

What I am trying to say is that parents and teachers and librarians and all others who have any influence on the reading habits of boys shall not assume the attitude that it is somehow not respectable for boys not to read what all other boys are reading. I would have all such people try to

influence all boys to read the great books, whether boys' books like *Cru-soe* or *Gulliver* or *Two Years Before the Mast* or whether books for grown-ups. I would have them try to make clear to all boys that it is perfectly good form for them to read *Vanity Fair*, if they like, and that it is not necessary to read *Mark Tidd* if they have a stomach for something more substantial. I would have them assume that the mentality of the average boy is much greater than is commonly supposed and that it is not necessary to be worried when a boy of 12 is interested in *Paradise Lost*, as occasionally happens. If all the educated people all over the nation should assume that attitude it would very probably mean a tremendous revival of interest in the great books of the past, and many, many boys who now waste their time with second bests would go to the fountain-heads of literature.

And if a boy showed unmistakably that he had no capacity for the great books, well and good, let him find his own level and feed his soul with the books for boys of which there are plenty. But at least an attempt would have been made to get him into vital contact at the earliest age possible with the great minds of the world.

What is needed is not necessarily fewer conventional books for boys but the development of a public opinion that shall encourage boys who can to rise above that type of reading and to feed in the pastures of the immortals.

#### Recipe for Making a Book

2 oz. of talent

Common sense size of an egg

1 oz. knowledge of human nature

Put all into the mortar of experience and pound well with the pestle of discretion.

Add 1 pint sentiment, 1 gill wit, and just a shake of sadness.

Strain again six months later and destroy sediment.

Season, garnish. Serve immediately.

If the public likes it, it will be eaten at once. If the dish comes back untasted, remove it from menu.—*Kate Douglas Wiggin.*



### Training in the Use of Books

A course offered awhile back by the Department of Education of Minnesota has so much that is still of sound fiber that it is repeated here in part:

**Instruction in the use and appreciation of books and libraries for training departments**

#### References

Harron & others. Course of study for Normal school pupils on literature for children.

Hope. Friends in Bookland. Macmillan .60  
Hunt. What shall we read to the children. Houghton \$1.50.

Lowe. Literature for children. Macmillan 1.40.

MacClintock. Literature in the elementary school. Univ. of Chicago \$1.50.

Morley. The child and the book (leaflet) A. L. A. Pub. Bd. Chicago.

Olcott. Children's reading. Houghton \$1.50

Power. Lists of stories and programs for story-hours. Wilson .40.

Rice. Lessons on the use of books and libraries. Rand \$1.

Wilson. School library management. Wilson .85.

*Minnesota Elementary School Library List*  
*High School English Syllabus*

*Method of instruction.*

#### 1 By whom given

If the high school has a teacher-librarian who has had the course in library methods at the university she should be consulted about the technical work, and asked to give part of the instruction, if the time can be arranged.

If the public library is in charge of a trained librarian she will be of great assistance and may be willing to give the technical instruction. With a little study and application, however, training teachers can soon learn to give the limited amount of technical and book instruction attempted here.

#### 2 Note taking

Every student should have a loose leaf note book for this course and should take careful notes on all talks. An index to the notes should be made when the work is completed.

For the study of each class of books, the teacher should make a list to be examined, sufficiently long to

include one book for each student. These titles should be arranged on notebook paper leaving space on the sheet for annotation under each title. One book should be assigned to each student for careful reading and report in class, at which time the other students should make annotations on the sheet for each title.

All book annotations should be handed in to the teacher for criticism on 3x5 slips. They should give the author's name, the title and publisher of the book, and a brief statement regarding it, which in a few words clearly characterizes the book and its uses.

#### 3 Book reports

By means of brief written book reports and book annotations, some critical judgment may be aroused, and some facility in description of books engendered; because of the student's lack of experience, and literary appreciation, her report on the book should be compared with a review or annotation given in some standard book like those used in the course, or in some standard list of books.

Attention should be called to the classification number for each kind of book as a help in the study of this subject later.

#### 4 Reference book study

This work should be emphasized by the assignment of topics to be looked up which have been carefully chosen to show clearly what kind of information may be found in each type of reference book. These topics should be selected from the reference work of other regular courses in the department.

#### 5 Book lists

A list of books to purchase for a rural school library should be made by the student from books actually examined. This list should be made of titles selected from the Minnesota Elementary School Library List, last ed. and should be made out in proper form on an order blank.

## 6 Practice work

On all technical instruction actual practice work should be provided, such as opening a new book; classifying by means of the school list making out a sample accession sheet; library printing; marking books, making shelf label; and checking the school list.

Much of the sample work should be kept for note book samples after they have been examined by the teacher.

Some of this work may be done on the training department library, but work in the general school library is not so valuable since the methods are somewhat different.

Mending practice may be secured through work in the school library. All practice work should be carefully examined by the teacher.

The greatest stress must be placed upon neatness and order and care in following directions in all parts of the work and every effort must be made to have the students understand what every part of the work is for, and its relationship to the whole.

## 7 Teaching the use of the library

Training students should make outlines of instruction to give to country children in the use of the library covering such topics as the use of the Maxson book mark, how to open a new book, book reports, and how to find a book by class number, after the library has been put in order.

(Continued)

When, in the course of educational events, a new thing arises, what happens? The good thing which has worked practically is soon taken up by the theorist, and he operates on the equation that if this and that is so and so we may infer thusly. Many a good thing has been theorized into oblivion. In the words of the old darky preacher, "They have come and they have went."—*The Little Bookshelf*.

## Art Collections for Colleges

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has caused to be collected 20 groups of art books and prints at a total valuation of \$100,000, which are to be distributed to a group of 20 American and Canadian colleges and universities. The collections consist of reproductions in photograph and color facsimiles of the greatest works in architecture, sculpture and painting; 50 original prints representing different processes and schools from the sixteenth century to the present; a set of textiles in 35 pieces dating from antiquity to the present day, illustrating all kinds of materials and designs characteristic of different races; 200 books on the art of every period and people. The books are in French and German as well as English.

The selected colleges to which the collections go are: Antioch, Beloit, Bowdoin, University of Chicago, Colorado College, Cornell, University of Kentucky, Knox, Miami, Park, Pomona, Randolph-Macon, St. John's, Stephens Junior College, Wabash, Wesleyan, College of William and Mary, Dalhousie, University of Toronto, Queens University.

## A Calendar of World Heroes

A Calendar of World Heroes prepared by Arthur Charles Watkins, Washington, D. C., has been published by the National Council for Prevention of War. This calendar comprises portraits of 12 heroic figures chosen by students from the schools in more than 30 countries in a competition in 1925-26 instituted by Clement M. Biddle of New York. This competition was for an award of \$1200 to the writers of the 12 best essays on world heroes. Each school that elected to participate in the study project was allowed to choose and send to the Committee of Award a list of 12 names of those that the school considered most worthy to be remembered for heroic service to humanity, of a permanent character. Each school was

allowed to send in an essay on each of the heroes it had chosen.

About a thousand schools and a half-million students took part in the selection of heroes and in the essay writing. After many eliminations under the conditions set, 563 schools were registered as eligible to have their school votes counted. Of these, 195 were in the United States and 368 in other countries. About 6800 school votes were registered representing 3,400,000 student votes cast by their representatives.

The calendar is made up of the portraits of the heroes and the essays written about them, and these are arranged in order of the number of school votes each character received. A remarkable thing about it is that two prize essays came from one high school, Burlington, N. J.

David E. Roberts, division of prints, Library Congress, assisted in the selection of the 12 portraits for the calendar. The portraits are in half-tone and are all taken from specially good pictures of more than passing interest. The work of preparing the calendar was done by noted individuals or institutions known for the excellence of their work.

It is hoped that it will be possible to have the calendar available to every boy and girl, every school, library, home or other places where it will be appreciated by boys and girls of the world as a product of sincere effort in a contest. The calendar may be had for 50 cents, three copies or more at the rate of three for \$1.

#### An Interesting Book Page

The Public library, Dubuque, Iowa, and the *Telegraph Herald* of that city coöperated in the celebration of Children's Book Week. Essays were called for from the schools, from the fifth thru the ninth grades, on "My favorite story and why I liked it." Prizes of books were offered by the *Telegraph Herald*.

"In a visit to the library and what I found there," a book review of biog-

raphy or a book of fiction, the reviewers were to tell what parts they liked and why and what parts they did not like and why, also characters that impressed favorably or unfavorably and why. The prize paper was chosen by the instructor of the class. In addition to three books to the best three essayists, there was also a list of honorable mention.

The *Telegraph Herald* of Sunday, November 7, contained a children's book page wherein were given the prize essays, an explanation of Children's Book Week and extracts from writers concerning children's reading. One of the best of these was the History of children's books by Miss. May Clark, librarian of the Public library, Dubuque.

#### An Inspiring Event

A notable occasion which generated good will and enthusiasm in several directions was that in which the American flag carried by Lieut.-Com. Richard E. Byrd in his flight to and from the North Pole last May, was presented recently to the Public library, Louisville, Kentucky. The flag was first presented to *The Times and Courier-Journal* for its financial aid to the flight to the north, and thru them and with the consent of Lieut. Byrd, Rear Admiral Hugh S. Rodman, U. S. N., presented the flag to the library. It was accepted for the trustees of the library by R. C. Ballard Thruston. Addresses were made by various prominent citizens, the keynote of which was, "The flag always inspires respect and in this instance, it stands for heroic daring, successful accomplishment, and, therefore, it is to be treasured."

The flag with its note from Commander Byrd is mounted in a frame, and together with Admiral Rodman's autograph, is to be preserved in the library museum.

More books in the homes by all means, but better still, books in more homes.

## News from the Field

## East

Mrs Irene Conner, N. Y. S. '26, was married to Herbert A. Durgy of Rutland, Vt., June 10.

Mrs Constance Leggett, Simmons '26, is temporarily engaged in assisting in the organization of the library of the Boston Teachers College.

Elsie Wells, Simmons '10, is now first assistant at the Union Square branch of the Public library, Somerville, Massachusetts.

Helen Brown, Simmons '24, has been placed in charge of school work at the Public library, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Lorna Shaw, Simmons '24, is organizing the private library of Mr Daniel Sayre, 10 Prescott Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Yale University is appealing to its alumni and friends for \$3,500,000 to endow Sterling library, the new library building, the money to be used for the purchase of books and to maintain a trained staff.

Mary E. Bidwell, formerly assistant in the Public library, Bridgeport, Conn., has been appointed librarian of the Veterans' hospital, Rutland Heights, Mass. Mary E. Kurtz has been appointed assistant-librarian at the same hospital.

Miss Alice T. Cummings, since 1901 assistant-librarian, Public library, Hartford, Connecticut, has been promoted to the librarianship to succeed the late lamented Caroline M. Hewins. Miss Cummings has been connected with the library in various positions for over 34 years.

## Central Atlantic

Caroline Righter, Simmons '16, has joined the staff of the H. W. Wilson Company, as an indexer.

Gertrude Ann Schwenger, Carnegie '23, has been appointed children's librarian at Thrall library, Middletown, N. Y.

Harriot E. Hassler, Pratt '98, has been made librarian of the Bowling Green Neighborhood Association building in New York.

Mrs Florence Deleon Phin, N. Y. P. L., '18, recently joined the library staff of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, New York City.

Mary L. Davis, librarian since 1905 of the Public library, Troy, N. Y., died as a result of being struck by an automobile, November 29, 1926.

Helen B. Curtice, formerly connected with the Jackson Square branch library, New York City, has been appointed librarian of Port Washington, N. Y.

Martha Stuart, N. Y. S. '24, and Edward F. Rowse, '25, were married, October 19. Their permanent address after November 15 is 16 Mt. Hope Street, Ticonderoga, N. Y.

At the Public library, Utica, N. Y., two courses on reference work are being given to the staff by Miss Mary E. Robbins, head of the reference department.

Alice Kirkpatrick, N. Y. S., '25, has been appointed instructor in cataloging and reference work for the remainder of the school year in New York State College for Teachers, Albany.

Cornelia Cochrane, Simmons '26, is assistant in charge of children's work at the Rye free reading room, Rye, New York, with work also at the Rye schools.

Helen Chandler Robbins, Simmons '22, was married in September to Clarence D. Brenner. Mrs Brenner is continuing her work in the library of Princeton University where Mr Brenner is an instructor.

A recent branch of the New York public library has been opened at the south part of Manhattan Island. The library is designed to meet the reading needs of 20,000 families of 24 nationalities.

The Public library, Rochester, N. Y., is putting on what seems to be an ef-



fective campaign for gifts and bequests to establish branch libraries and for funds with which to buy books for the central library collection.

Pauline McCauley, N. Y. S., '12, first assistant in the circulation department of the Public library of Seattle, Wash., since 1924, resigned in December to become assistant to the librarian of the Enoch Pratt free library, Baltimore, Md.

Clifford B. Clapp, late of the Henry E. Huntington library, California, and formerly of the Harvard College and Dartmouth College libraries, has become superintendent of cataloging in the library of the University of Pennsylvania.

Newspaper reports from Brooklyn indicate that the central building which the Brooklyn public library has been hoping for, these dozen years, will be again deferred owing to other municipal needs which seem more important to the city authorities.

The Library of Congress has been made the legatee of the collection of the late Houdini, consisting of books and treatises on magic, legerdemain, spiritualism, occultism, witchcraft and demonology. The collection is said to be the most extensive of its kind.

The annual report of the Wilmington Institute free library, Wilmington, Delaware, records: Circulation, 577,848v. thru five separate buildings including the central library, and 29 school buildings; population served, 118,000; number of borrowers, 26,433; volumes on shelves, 131,120 (of these, 5734v. are in the reference department); per cent of fiction lent, 59.

Dr George F. Bowerman, librarian, Public library, D. C., has been elected president of the Federal club of Washington. "This club was organized to raise the standards of the administration and personnel of the government service, to promote coöperation and business efficiency and to secure a better understanding and appreciation by the people in the activities of the gov-

ernment and by the government of the needs of the people. There are about 350 men in the club who represent the most important administrative and scientific positions. Only those occupying responsible positions in the administrative and technical services are eligible."

The annual report of the Pratt Institute free library, Brooklyn, stresses the fact of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Pratt Institute and the thirtieth of the opening of the library building.

On the first day of June, 1896, 30 years ago, the doors of this library building were opened to the public after a brief but impressive ceremony of dedication a few days before. Mrs Margaret Deland and Dr Melvil Dewey were the principal speakers at the dedicatory exercises held upon our beautiful staircase, and both have beheld the fulfillment of their prophetic words in the beneficent service the library continues to render after so many years.

The circulating department reports 228,906 books lent; cards in force, 11,204. The intermediate department, known as the "Y" shelves, for young people until they are 18 is most interesting. It seems to give more satisfaction to those who are allowed to reach up to it from the high school than to those who are restricted to it rather than admitted to the adult department; 34,524 applications were made on the general reference department. The attendance in the applied science reference department was 15,843. This room serves the School of Science and Technology as well as men engaged in the industrial field. The books issued from the children's room for home use reached 54,685. The justifiable pride in the fact that this is the oldest children's room anywhere is reiterated at the completion of the third decade of its history.

A beautiful tribute is paid to Miss Edith M. Pomeroy who died last August and who was for 34 years on the staff of the library, largely in responsible positions. The note regarding her understanding and consideration of the library school students will

touch a tender memory in many of her ex-students.

A number of gifts, both of interest and value, are recorded. Number of volumes on shelves, 136,122; expenditures—books and periodicals, \$9,210; binding, \$2,011; salaries, \$40,310.

#### Central

Miss Aline Emery, for 24 years librarian, Public library of Taylorville, Illinois, has resigned her position.

The Public library of Vandalia, Illinois, has received a gift of \$300 from Genevieve Capps in memory of her mother.

Eugenia Raymond, N. Y. P. L. '21-22, has been appointed head of the loan department of the Ohio State University, Columbus.

Florence C. Hays, for some time in charge of the Milwaukee municipal library, has been made librarian of the Public library, Watertown, Wisconsin.

Esther M. Lloyd, an assistant in the Milwaukee public library since 1923, recently serving as hospital librarian in that city, has been appointed librarian, Veterans' hospital, Knoxville, Ia.

V. Jane Grover, W. R. U. '25, is now children's librarian of the Public library, Masillon, Ohio. Last year Miss Grover was children's librarian, Public library, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Corinne A. Metz, N. Y. S. '07, for five years librarian of the Allen County library, Indiana, has just been appointed librarian of the Public library, Springfield, Ohio.

Dorothy G. Crocker, Simmons '24, children's librarian at the Public library, Dearborn, Michigan, was married in October to A. D. Ross Fraser. They are living at 1005 North George Street, Rome, N. Y.

A county library system with 18 branches for the convenience of rural residents will be established in Winnebago County, Wisconsin. The county system will be operated in conjunction with the Oshkosh public library.

Elsie Remley, Illinois, joined the staff of the Public library, Des Moines, Iowa, in November. Mrs Floy Davis Laird, formerly with the Mason City public library, joined the Des Moines staff in September as editor.

Belle Caldwell, for the past 16 years librarian of the Public library, Charles City, Iowa, has resigned her position to take effect January 15. Miss Caldwell will make her home in New York City.

Ella I. Peeples has been transferred from the Veterans' hospital, Camp Custer, Mich., to organize library service in the new Veterans' hospital, North Chicago, Ill. Miss Della Mathys has been appointed to succeed Miss Peeples at Camp Custer.

The Public library of Des Moines, Iowa, opened its eighth branch, the Lincoln Heights branch, on November 20. Like the majority of the Des Moines branches, it is located in a storeroom near a small community center.

Julia Wright Merrill, for some time chief of the organization division of the Ohio state library, has resigned from that position to become executive assistant for the A. L. A. committee on library extension. Mary N. Baker succeeds Miss Merrill as chief of the division.

Miss Harriet Turner, Wisconsin '26, for the past six years librarian in the Public library, Kewanee, Illinois, has resigned to enter the reference department in the Public library, Des Moines, Iowa. Helen Clears, assistant-librarian at the Kewanee library for several years, has been appointed librarian to succeed Miss Turner.

Gifts of money to Ohio libraries for the year 1926 amounted to more than \$100,000. The largest gift was one of \$40,000 to the Warren library by J. W. Packard of the famous automobile company. Massillon received \$25,000; Coshocton \$10,000; Ohio Wesleyan University \$10,000. These gifts and others are evidence of growing and effective interest in library service.

## South

Grace Zerkle, formerly librarian of the Public library, Garrett, Ind., has been appointed assistant-librarian at the Veterans' hospital, North Little Rock, Ark.

Edna D. Orr, four years librarian at the Public library, Watertown, Wisconsin, has resigned to take charge of the Southern West branch, Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs Kate Meade McQuigg, who spent the past summer in study and travel in Europe, has been appointed librarian of the U. S. Veterans' hospital, Outwood (Dawson Springs), Ky.

Dr Hugh M. Blain, New Orleans, has been appointed a member of the Louisiana library commission to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Eleanor McMain of New Orleans.

A gift of \$10,000 to the Public library, Chattanooga, to be used for the benefit of the service, has been given by Mrs B. F. Thomas of that city. The interest on this fund of \$10,000 is to be expended for the purchase of such rare books as may be selected and approved.

The annual report of the Public library, Chattanooga, Tennessee, records: Number of books on shelves, 88,305; circulation, 296,416v.; population, 136,464; registered borrowers, 28,275; library staff, 17 full time, 12 part time; receipts, \$48,792; expenditures, \$48,787. There are 12 county branches which circulated 83,333v.

The report of the Public library of Raton, N. M., is most interesting not only in the facts presented but in the manner of presenting the facts. The report itself is pocket size and must from its very excellence have been a matter of satisfaction to the public of Raton. The county contributes to the library and it is open to any resident of Colfax county.

Population served, 25,000; registered borrowers, 3,400; circulation,

36,846v. thru 17 agencies; appropriation, \$5,212.

The annual report of the Carnegie library of Atlanta records: Circulation, 685,041v., an increase of 52,962v.; active card holders in the library, 78,506; library agencies, one main library, eight branches, 12 schools. The fourth, fifth and sixth grades, 4000 school children, were given instruction on how to use the library. Material was assembled on 259 subjects of debate. The work of the library is divided into nine departments, five of which, the reference, circulation, periodical, children's and branch libraries, give direct service to the public while the other four, catalog, order, mending and binding, are concerned with keeping the equipment in order and the fashioning of new tools of service. The circulation department lends 1000 books a day. The library purchased 9764v. in 1926 of which 3000 were new titles and the others replacements. The collection numbers about 125,000 v.; 80,000 are at the main library.

Atlanta appropriated for library purposes in 1926, 50 cents per capita. Most urgent need has developed for more and larger quarters thruout the library system.

... Library service is not the obvious mechanical process of handing out books to an endless line of people, but those who would exploit the printed word in the service of the community must have a "trained intelligence and happy eagerness to have the people appropriate the resources of the institution into their daily lives, pursuits, and credit accounts." Their service must be based on an expert knowledge of their materials, or it becomes merely the counsel of zealous amateurs.

## Pacific coast

John B. Kaiser, director of the University of Iowa library, has resigned his position in that institution to take effect February 1. Mr Kaiser has been elected librarian of the Public library system of Oakland, California, to succeed Charles S. Greene, resigned.

Helen Remsberg, Washington, '20, N. Y. P. L., '24, has become superintendent of traveling libraries for the

State of Washington. Miss Remsberg has been very successful as librarian of the Public library, Puyallup, Washington, and is now president of the Puget Sound library club.

The state budget commission of Oregon has approved an appropriation of \$115,045 for the conduct of the Oregon state library during the biennium, January 1, 1927-29. The original request was granted with the exception of \$4000 which had been asked for book truck service in eastern Oregon.

#### Foreign

Mrs Edith M. Laird, Pratt '22, cataloger at Princeton University library, has accepted the position of librarian of the American university at Beirut, Syria.

The report of the Municipal library, Warrington, England, records: Circulation, 216,642v., an increase of 10 per cent; number of borrowers registered, 9565, an increase of 10 per cent.

The gift of a celebrated music collection was received. In addition to a representative collection of works on the history, theory and criticism of music, the collection contains some 4500 examples of instrumental music with complete parts for orchestral and band work.

There has been an appreciable increase in the number of students of the Workers Education association using the library. Particular increase has been made in the use of the children's library so that it was necessary to increase the hours in which it was open.

The income was £3456 to which was added £167 from receipts at the library. Expenditures for salaries, wages and superannuation reached £1512; books and replacements, £662. This with other items made a total expenditure of £6323.

Miss Florence Wilson of New York, who has been chief librarian of the League of Nations since the formation of the same, according to newspaper

reports "has been displaced to make room for a German savant." This seems hardly likely and yet it is announced that Miss Wilson is to join the faculty of the Paris library school.

Miss Wilson was librarian for the memorable Peace Commission in the early days of its work but as the duties of the position became multiplied and more strenuous, she confined her efforts to choosing and buying reference books needed for the various subjects under discussion around the peace table. So efficient was her work in this direction and so favorable an impression did she make on those with whom she came in contact that when the library of the League of Nations was decided upon, Miss Wilson was given charge of the administration of the same. Reports from every direction in the last five or six years give great praise to Miss Wilson's work, her efficiency and courtesy, and it seems unbelievable that the report which is going the rounds of the secular press could have any foundation in fact.

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**Wanted**—Head of children's department by the Public library, Jacksonville, Fla., to begin January 1. Salary not less than \$1740.

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**Wanted**—An assistant for some reference work, to assist with publicity work and to attempt field development. Salary according to preparation. Public library, Kalamazoo, Mich.

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**Wanted**—A children's librarian and a reference librarian in a library in the middle west. College education and training required. For particulars apply, Librarian, Public Library, Oshkosh, Wis.

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**Positions open**—Opportunities in a large public library: Children's librarians, catalogers, general assistants. State training, experience, salary and references. Address immediately Librarian, P. O. Box 27, Station S, New York, N. Y.